

STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2007

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

ATTENDEES:

For TECB Board: Mr. Randy Porter, Chair
Mr. Ike Lowry, Vice-Chair
Mr. Charles Bilbrey, Member
Mr. Freddie Rich, Member
Ms. Carolann Mason, Member
Mr. Mike Taylor, Member
Mr. Steve Smith, Member

For TECB Staff: Ms. Lynn Questell, Executive Director
Mr. Robert McLeod, Accounting Manager
Mr. Rex Hollaway, Director of
Technical Services
Ms. Carolyn Reed, TECB Attorney
Ms. Monica Smith-Ashford, Director
of Government and External Affairs
Ms. Vanessa D. Williams, Assistant
to the Executive Director

Reported By:
Carol A. Nichols, RDR, CRR, CCR

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Attachments

Documents Provided to

Court Reporter Prior to

Start of Meeting

1 (The aforementioned Board Meeting came
2 on to be heard on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 500 James
3 Robertson Parkway, Davy Crockett Tower, Room 160,
4 beginning at approximately 9:31 a.m., when the
5 following proceedings were had, to-wit:)

6
7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We'll call the
8 Tennessee Emergency Communications Board's April 19,
9 2007, meeting to order. Let the record show that it is
10 about 9:31 as we start, and I'd like to welcome each one
11 of you this morning.

12 Board members, good to see you again.
13 I hope you had a good trip down. And y'all who are
14 guests in the audience, we thank you for coming.

15 The first thing I'd like to do is, as
16 you-all know, tragedy hit our country this week with the
17 massive slaughter of students at the college and, you
18 know, the thing that we were thinking about is, yes,
19 that happened in another state, but that easily could
20 have been Tennessee State University, it could have been
21 Tennessee Tech, it could have been any of the colleges
22 that that could have happened in, and it could be one of
23 ours.

24 And so I thought if the board doesn't
25 mind and I don't have any objection from the board

1 members that we might have a moment of silence for those
2 that were killed and especially for their families that
3 are going through the grieving process. So we'll do
4 that at this time.

5 Okay. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
6 Let the record show that we have a quorum. Mr. Tom
7 Beehan and Ms. Katrina Cobb are absent, but all the
8 other members are present. On our agenda today, the
9 first item is always a report of our Executive Director,
10 Lynn Questell.

11 MS. QUESTELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I'd like to start with a report on the status of
13 wireless carrier and voice over IP deployment. We
14 haven't had any significant changes in carrier
15 deployment since the last meeting. I'm going to list
16 the following carriers that are offering phase II
17 service throughout their service areas in our state:
18 Advantage, Alltel, Cingular, ClearTalk, Cricket, Eloqui
19 which recently merged with U.S. Cellular, Sprint/Nextel,
20 T-Mobile, Triton, U.S. Cellular, Verizon, and Yorkville
21 which is doing business as West Kentucky Networks, Inc.

22 I'd like to report that Vonage has
23 completed its connectivity to the Cookeville selective
24 router that allows routing of their voice over IP calls
25 to the standalone counties. I'm very pleased to inform

1 you that there have been no reports of misroutes since
2 the last meeting. As to the status of the board's
3 request for an expansion of its budget, we continue to
4 be cautiously optimistic about the board's request to
5 expand its budget to include the 14 million additional
6 operations funding for not just the 2007-2008 fiscal
7 year but also retroactively to the 2006-2007 fiscal
8 year.

9 Both the Commissioner of Finance and
10 Administration and the Commissioner of Commerce and
11 Insurance have stated publicly that they support the
12 program, but most likely, the board is not going to
13 learn anything about this until the budget is finalized,
14 the state budget, and that's probably not going to
15 happen until after the Funding Board releases its report
16 on the state's revenue, which should happen on May 7th
17 or 8th. So until the General Assembly gets that report,
18 my educated guess is that nothing substantive will
19 happen on the budget.

20 As to the status of our essential
21 equipment reimbursement program, as of April 1, 66
22 districts either had been paid or in the process of
23 being reimbursed for requests totaling 6,224,600. 14
24 districts have requested the maximum amount of 150,000,
25 nine more have less than 20,000 remaining, and 34 have

1 not initiated any action toward requesting money under
2 the program. Last month, there was a miscalculation,
3 and I reported that over 11 million had been asked for
4 under this program. That was not right. It was -- at
5 the last meeting, the correct number should have been
6 5,816,000.

7 I want to report on the status of our
8 Next Generation 911 project to build an IP network for
9 our 911 calls. In March, our chairman and members of
10 the staff met with the Chief and Deputy Chief
11 Information Officers of the Office for Information
12 Resources in the Department of Finance and
13 Administration, and we discussed OIR -- that's what they
14 call it -- OIR's plans to issue an RFP in May to build
15 an IP network for the State of Tennessee. And at this
16 meeting, we discussed the possibilities for our NG911
17 project to utilize some of the buildout that they might
18 be putting in.

19 It was a very productive meeting.
20 Staff is working on -- with representatives from Kimball
21 on developing the scope of services for our RFP for the
22 board's NG911 project, and that's continuing. We're
23 working on it with Kimball. And Kimball and Associates,
24 who is one of our technical consultants, is involved in
25 the U.S. Department of Transportation NG911 pilot

1 project, so they kind of keep us in the loop as to
2 standards and recent developments in 911. And our
3 in-house technical director, Rex Hollaway, is also
4 involved in developing standards and stuff for NG911
5 through NENA's Next Generation Planning Committee. He's
6 devoted a lot of time to that and input.

7 I'm trying to stay abreast of the
8 national NG911 project. I'm participating in the U.S.
9 Department of Transportation's NG911 high level
10 requirements virtual working group, so we're trying to
11 stay abreast of all the new developments and actually
12 add to them. Our project toward dealing with the
13 harassing non-initialized 911 phone calls, we are still
14 working on our petition to request the FCC to clarify
15 its order on harassing 911 calls from non-initialized
16 phones.

17 While Carolyn and I were in D.C. in
18 March for the NENA 911 On The Hill meeting, she met with
19 representatives from the FCC and discussed this issue,
20 so she's kind of teed it up, and we are proceeding with
21 that. And, again, I want to thank all the districts
22 that participated in our survey on the number of
23 harassing 911 phone calls they were getting from
24 non-initialized phones. That information that you
25 provided to us is just totally invaluable and will

1 really strengthen our petition.

2 I'm going to report on legislation
3 impacting 911 in the state of Tennessee. Eight bills
4 that impact 911 have been filed with the legislature.
5 Two of them were submitted by this board. One of our
6 bills, as you probably recollect, dealt with increasing
7 the penalties for certain types of aggravating 911 calls
8 that were of a particularly aggravated nature. And
9 those would be -- the penalty would be increased to a
10 class A misdemeanor, which is up to 364 days of
11 incarceration and a fine of up to \$2500.

12 There are two other bills dealing with
13 penalties for harassing 911 calls. They were both filed
14 by Senator Ford and Representative Towns. One increased
15 the fine to 250 and the other to \$500. And those fines
16 were then earmarked into both their bills to go to the
17 911 call center in the city where they originated. The
18 status of those three bills is that staff is continuing
19 to try to work with Senator Ford and Representative
20 Towns to try to craft some mutually agreeable language.

21 The board's bill is expected to be in
22 the Senate Judiciary Committee next week. In the House,
23 it was on the calendar for the subcommittee of state and
24 local, but it was rolled to next week because the
25 subcommittee didn't have enough time to finish all the

1 bills. As to the Ford and Towns bills, the bill in the
2 Senate has not moved, and the bill in the House was
3 rolled to the last calendar of the local subcommittee of
4 the state and local committee.

5 The last calendar for that subcommittee
6 is expected to be next week. The other bill that the
7 board sponsored would expand the membership of its
8 technical advisory committee to allow representation for
9 more than just the wireless industry, which we felt was
10 important since voice over IP is now on the horizon and
11 actually deploying in our state. The Senate bill on
12 that was actually placed in the general subcommittee,
13 but it has been pulled back out and is expected to be on
14 the calendar, state and local, next week.

15 The House bill was rolled to next
16 week's calendar on the local subcommittee of state and
17 local because they didn't have enough time to finish the
18 calendar. The next bill that is of interest was the
19 bill that was sponsored by Senator Ketron and
20 Representative Fitzhugh on behalf of the Tennessee
21 Municipal League that would have allowed the mayor of
22 each municipality in each district to either sit on the
23 911 board or appoint someone to sit on it.

24 The board at the last meeting voted to
25 oppose this bill, and I'm happy to report that the

1 Senate version of the bill has been sent to General
2 Subcommittee, which generally means it's tabled, and the
3 House bill was taken off notice in the local
4 subcommittee of the House State and Local Committee
5 yesterday. What we think this means is that the bill
6 will not be moving through the House either.

7 Monica tells me that this essentially
8 means that the bill is dead in both the House and
9 Senate. And we would like to congratulate Monica for
10 her hard work negotiating about this bill. We
11 appreciate that very much.

12 The next bill was the bill that was
13 sponsored by Senator Norris and Representative Turner
14 that would authorize the district -- I mean this board
15 to hold contested case hearings to remove ECB board
16 members. The board also opposed this bill. In the
17 Senate, the bill was moved to General Subcommittee,
18 which means that it's pretty much not going anywhere,
19 and staff spoke with Representative Turner, the House
20 sponsor, and he indicated that he did not plan to move
21 the bill forward in the house.

22 The next bill was a bill sponsored by
23 Senator Kyle, which basically changed the appointment of
24 Shelby County Emergency Communications District's Board
25 of Directors, the way they appointed them. This board

1 took no position on the bill, and it is moving along.
2 It has passed both the Senate and the House.

3 The last bill was the caption bill that
4 was sponsored by Senator Kyle and Representative Odom.
5 Monica spoke with Representative Moore, the House
6 sponsor, and he indicated he had not heard anything from
7 the administration and he did not plan to move the bill
8 unless he was asked to by the administration.

9 Again, I really would like to thank
10 Monica for her hard work. She basically has been living
11 up on the Hill, and I think she has represented the
12 board's interests very well. I would like to ask the
13 board to -- as my next item to -- if the board has no
14 objection, staff would like to form a committee to study
15 some of the issues that were recently raised by the
16 Governor and members of the General Assembly.

17 Some of these issues include PBXs,
18 costs of and contributions for dispatching, how expenses
19 might be distributed, whether there should be greater
20 enforcement of the dispatcher training standards or
21 whether the training program should be certified. If
22 the board has no objection, at the next meeting we would
23 like to offer a potential list of members for the
24 board's approval and some issues for the board's
25 approval for us to study.

1 I just really think that especially
2 this year when so many government officials raised
3 issues about 911 that we need to be looking at them and
4 actually get some consensus and talk about it. I think
5 before anything happens, we really need to talk to
6 people about some of these important issues, and this
7 would be a way to start that process.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You heard the request
9 from staff that we appoint a policy committee and that
10 Lynn would bring back the members for our approval at
11 our next meeting.

12 MR. RICH: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

13 MS. MASON: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We have a motion by
15 Mr. Rich, seconded by Ms. Mason, that we appoint the
16 committee. Is there a discussion?

17 MR. SMITH: I have a question,
18 Mr. Chairman, and that would just simply be -- maybe
19 Lynn is not this far into the process yet, but have you
20 anticipated composition wise such a committee? I know
21 that previously the operational committee, funding
22 committee, seemed to have a majority base within the 911
23 district, so are we looking at multiple disciplines,
24 being police, fire, EMS, emergency management? I know
25 we're talking about dispatching functions again and some

1 other things, or did you anticipate these being similar
2 to the operations and funding, technical committee?

3 MS. QUESTELL: Well, I was trying --
4 what I had in mind was kind of a broad cross-section of
5 primarily district representatives, which would be
6 people from the larger, middle, and smaller districts,
7 but I also would like to reach out and get
8 representatives from the counties and cities. I thought
9 that worked really well with the funding committee. I
10 thought it was really important not to have the
11 discussions in a vacuum.

12 We want to hear, you know, as wide a
13 variety of opinions as -- you know, as is feasible, so,
14 no, I was not thinking -- the operations committee, with
15 one exception, is just ECD members. And I was thinking
16 about spreading the net a little bit more broadly,
17 having a representative from industry and the state,
18 cities, and counties.

19 MR. SMITH: It would certainly work as
20 well as those committees did. I didn't see that
21 outlined.

22 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Any other questions
23 or discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

24 (Board members respond "aye.")

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like

1 sign.

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.

4 MS. QUESTELL: Thank you. The next
5 item I'd like to report on is the recent Attorney
6 General Opinion on 911 fees on T1 and PRI circuits. We
7 were delighted to get this very scholarly opinion from
8 the Office of the Attorney General that essentially
9 affirms the board's policy on assessing 911 fees on T1
10 and PRI circuits.

11 The opinion basically states that the
12 911 fee should be imposed on all lines or channels
13 capable of transmitting a voice calling 911 to a PSAP.
14 For T1 circuits, that would be each of the 24 lines, and
15 for PRI's, each of the 23 lines that are used for
16 telephonic purposes. Upon request -- and I've been
17 asked by innumerable people -- we will be sending out a
18 copy of this decision and a cover letter and a copy of
19 the board's policy to all of the local exchange carriers
20 that are operating in our state.

21 To report on TEMA activities, Rex has
22 been very involved. He continues to act as the board's
23 coordinator with TEMA and is a liaison between the
24 wireless and voice over IP carriers and the districts.
25 He tells me that there is going to be a major earthquake

1 disaster exercise sponsored by TEMA from June 19th
2 through 21st that will focus heavily on emergency
3 communications.

4 He is also working with TEMA to
5 identify districts and county agencies with mobile PSAPs
6 and command and control resources, and he is developing
7 a disaster operations guide for emergency services
8 functions to guide our support. As part of his duties
9 for TEMA, he obtained the number of 911 mobile units in
10 our state. He has counted 24 counties having access to
11 at least one mobile unit owned by either the ECD, the
12 local EMA, a municipality, or shared with a homeland
13 security district.

14 And I also want to report that we have
15 put in the paperwork to get Rex a satellite phone so he
16 can use that during emergencies, and he plans to develop
17 a statewide satellite phone number directory that will
18 be helpful in emergencies.

19 I'd like to report on the NENA goes to
20 Washington meeting. It occurred during the week of
21 March 12th, and Tennessee was very well represented. We
22 had members from over six districts attending, and we
23 visited the offices of eight of our congressional
24 delegates while we were in D.C., and my feet are
25 starting to get over that. It was a long day but very,

1 very worthwhile. We also note that Representative Bart
2 Gordon was the keynote speaker at the NENA meeting where
3 he announced that he was filing a VoIP bill that relates
4 to 911 services. This is a bill that his assistant,
5 Dana Lichtenberg, worked with staff on, and she tried to
6 contact all sorts of interested parties, and we liked
7 the bill very much. There is a companion bill already
8 filed in the Senate.

9 And while we were there, we were
10 delighted to watch Representative Gordon receive the
11 Federal Leader Award from the E911 Institute this year
12 for his work on voice over IP.

13 My final item is kind of a cautionary
14 note. I wanted to report on the progress of Indiana's
15 NG911 project. They have -- they are in the process of
16 deploying their project. It was to go into two phases,
17 and the project proceeded on time and on budget except
18 for PSAPs that had rented PSAP -- leased PSAP equipment
19 from actually AT&T. And I was told by their director
20 that AT&T is not allowing the equipment that it leased
21 to the PSAPs to be connected to any network
22 infrastructure that it does not own or control.

23 Well, the deal is that when Indiana bid
24 out its NG911 project, it bid it to a local corporation
25 called INdigital, so the IP network is not run by AT&T,

1 and so at this point INdigital is considering suing AT&T
2 to force connection of this leased equipment to the
3 network. And I just would caution districts that are in
4 the process of leasing 911 equipment from local exchange
5 carriers that they just be aware of this and that they
6 consider -- when they're negotiating their contracts,
7 they might think about including language that states
8 that the vendor will consent for them to connect to any
9 IP network that the State deploys. That's all I have.

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All right. Any
11 questions of Lynn on any of her items that she updated
12 us on? Only one point, I was thinking, Steve, I can
13 remember -- we was talking about we've got 22 or 23
14 911 -- mobile 911 PSAPs now. I can remember when we
15 only had one. Can't you? Rutherford County had the
16 only mobile PSAP I knew of in the state for years and
17 years until I guess maybe the Montgomery County tornados
18 really started making people think when y'all provided
19 it to them for a period of time, so that's great to see
20 that we've moved ahead that far.

21 Part of that Homeland Security money
22 made it a little easier to buy some of those things.
23 That's a good report, Lynn. Thank you.

24 We're down to our action items now.
25 Action item number 1 that we have to take action upon,

1 the board, is consider clarifying the definition of
2 positive cash flow in Policy Number 16. Do you want to
3 talk about that?

4 MS. QUESTELL: Yes. Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman. Policy 16 is about the duration of
6 designation as a financially distressed district. There
7 has been some controversy regarding the meaning of one
8 of the phrases, "positive cash flow." When the board
9 adopted Policy 16, which says that a district to get out
10 of being financially in distress has to -- financially
11 distressed has to have positive cash flow for not less
12 than two consecutive years, but there has been some
13 discussion about what positive cash flow means.

14 When the board voted on that policy,
15 they kind of used the terms "positive cash flow" and "in
16 the black" interchangeably, so staff would like to
17 clarify what positive cash flow means as having funds
18 available in the ECD checking account and not being over
19 30 days in arrears for any debt or obligation. So what
20 we'd like to do is change Policy 16 as follows. I'll
21 just read it into the record.

22 "Effective February 1, 2004, Emergency
23 Communications Districts that have been determined to be
24 financially distressed districts, pursuant to Tennessee
25 Code Annotated 7-86-304(d), shall remain subject to the

1 supervision and evaluation of the Tennessee Emergency
2 Communications Board for a period of not less than two
3 consecutive years of positive cash flow. For this
4 policy a positive cash flow for the ECD is defined as
5 having funds available in the ECD's checking account and
6 not being over 30 days in arrears for any debt or
7 obligation."

8 That last sentence is the new sentence
9 that we're using to clarify.

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You've heard staff's
11 recommendation that we amend Policy 16 to define
12 positive cash flow. What's the will of the board?

13 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I'd move that
14 we accept staff's recommendation on Policy 16.

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I have a motion by
16 Mr. Smith. Do I have a second?

17 MR. LOWRY: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Seconded by Mr. Lowry
19 that we approve the staff's recommendation on amending
20 Policy 16. Group discussion or questions? Hearing
21 none, all in favor say aye.

22 (Board members respond "aye.")

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
24 sign.

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.

2 Our next item is to consider amending
3 Policies Number 11 and 14 to revise the procedures for
4 extending increases to emergency telephone service
5 charges. Lynn, do you want to talk about that?

6 MS. QUESTELL: At the last meeting, the
7 board asked staff to analyze whether we should continue
8 the present method of analyzing extensions to increases
9 for emergency telephone service charges. Right now, the
10 board reviews the rates of districts that have received
11 increases every three years. And you-all know the whole
12 process. We have applications, and there's a site
13 visit, and then someone from staff will present a
14 report, and we have -- the people come in and talk about
15 their rate increase.

16 While this practice provides a valuable
17 update of ECD's fiscal health, it's extremely time
18 consuming. 47 districts have received rate increases
19 from the board, and they each have to be reviewed every
20 three years, and we've had to extend the time to review
21 that because a number of them were terminated on the
22 same day due to the TACIR study. And we should note
23 that the board has never denied a request to extend a
24 rate increase.

25 We'd like to change this procedure so

1 that we streamline it and we don't require that it be
2 reported in a board meeting the same way. We'd like to
3 continue having these reports but not having the
4 districts come in unless there's some kind of a problem.
5 What staff would prefer doing is implement a more
6 systematic review of district budgets and audits and
7 audit findings and affirmatively assist districts in
8 reducing and eliminating their findings.

9 Then if there were unusual
10 circumstances that couldn't be resolved by staff, then
11 we would have the districts come in and give a status
12 report. So basically what I'm looking for is permission
13 to eliminate the current requirement that districts
14 appear before the board to request extensions but
15 continue to monitor the districts, and then staff will
16 come up with a much more streamlined application
17 process. And we'll analyze the reports, and if there
18 are inconsistencies or irregularities that we cannot
19 resolve with the districts, then we would ask the
20 districts to come in.

21 So this is a lot, but I'm going to try
22 to streamline this a little. We would like the board to
23 amend Policy Number 11 to remove the following sentence:
24 "Unless stated otherwise or subsequently modified, the
25 length of rate increases and rate increase extensions

1 shall be three years from date of approval." We would
2 like that sentence to be removed and substituted with
3 the following sentence: "Each ECD that has received a
4 rate increase from the TECB shall provide to the board a
5 TECB-defined report every three years from the date the
6 rate increase was approved."

7 And then we'd like to amend Policy 14
8 to eliminate the current procedures for applying for
9 extensions to rate increases, and we'd like to amend
10 Policy 14 to add language requiring that the districts
11 that have received rate increases file a simple
12 application that we will prepare for them, and it will
13 be subject to your approval. And should the report
14 reveal problems or inconsistencies not resolvable by
15 staff, then the ECD would be required to appear before
16 the board.

17 And we would like the board to specify
18 that all rate increases currently in effect will
19 continue unabated under the new procedures.

20 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. You've heard
21 the recommendation from staff that we amend Policy
22 Number 11 to remove the three-year limitation on rate
23 increases and extensions and insert the new sentence
24 that Lynn gave you, amend Policy Number 14 to eliminate
25 the current procedures for applying for extensions,

1 require the ECDs that have received rate increases from
2 the board file a simple defined report that will be
3 developed later, and specify that all rate increases
4 currently in effect will continue unabated under the new
5 procedures. What's the will of the board?

6 MR. LOWRY: So move.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I have a motion from
8 Mr. Lowry. Do I have a second?

9 MR. TAYLOR: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Second by Mr. Taylor.
11 Questions or discussion?

12 MS. REED: I may have missed this, but
13 I'm not sure that it was clear that we're also
14 recommending that new language be added to Policy Number
15 14 that outlines the procedures for that shortened
16 report, and that was in your packages. Lynn didn't read
17 that into the record, but that's the new language that
18 was in your packages.

19 MS. QUESTELL: I didn't read it into
20 the record because it's very long.

21 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You have it in your
22 package. You've been able to see it. Does anybody have
23 any questions over it? Okay. Hearing none, all in
24 favor say aye.

25 (Board members respond "aye.")

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
2 sign.

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.

5 The next item is to consider proposed
6 amendment to Policy Number 34, reflecting decision at
7 the February 22, 2007, meeting on financial support for
8 ECB consolidation. Lynn?

9 MS. QUESTELL: Thank you. At the last
10 meeting, the board voted to amend Policy 34, which talks
11 about the money that's available if two districts
12 consolidate. We were wanting to clarify what would
13 happen if three districts consolidated. And the board
14 came up with what it wanted to do with that that
15 diverged slightly from what staff had recommended. And
16 so we wanted to draft up what we think the board was
17 looking for in the new policy, so I'd like to read that
18 into the record and make sure that it reflects what the
19 board's decision was at the last meeting.

20 Okay. It's "Financial support to
21 promote consolidation of ECDs. In order to effectuate
22 the purposes of Tennessee Code Annotated 7-86-105(b)6,
23 each emergency communications district that consolidates
24 with another, up to a maximum of three ECDs, shall be
25 eligible for financial assistance up to a maximum of

1 \$150,000 each toward the cost of consolidation, to be
2 determined on a case-by-case basis after a site visit
3 and analysis by the board or its designee, and the
4 development in conjunction with the affected districts
5 of a consolidation plan, including the projected costs
6 associated with the project, subject to the board's
7 approval.

8 "The consolidation shall be
9 memorialized in a written intergovernmental agreement
10 consistent with Tennessee Code Annotated 7-86-105(b)6.
11 The amount of financial support for consolidation of
12 more than three ECDs shall be determined on a
13 case-by-case basis by the TECB."

14 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You've heard the
15 staff's recommendation that we amend Policy Number 34
16 with the proposed language that Lynn just read. What is
17 the will of the board?

18 MR. BILBREY: So move.

19 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion by
20 Mr. Bilbrey. Do I have a second?

21 MR. RICH: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Second by Mr. Rich.
23 Any discussion or questions? Hearing none, all in favor
24 say aye.

25 (Board members respond "aye.")

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
2 sign.

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries. Next
5 item is to consider adopting Policy Number 40 to clarify
6 how the \$100,000 catastrophic funding program will be
7 administered. Lynn?

8 MS. QUESTELL: Thank you. This is on
9 the agenda because of discussions that I've had with
10 Rex. He's been really involved with the TEMA stuff, and
11 he brought up a really good point, which was that even
12 though in January, 2006, the board voted to provide up
13 to \$100,000 to assist in PSAP reconstruction or
14 relocation in case of damage due to a catastrophe, if
15 insurance was not going to cover the cost, there was a
16 whole lot of gray area as far as how that would actually
17 be administered.

18 And if a PSAP had actually gone down,
19 we would want to be able to act quickly. And thank you,
20 Rex, for advising me about that. That was a good point.
21 So what staff is recommending is to set some procedures
22 in place so that we wouldn't have to hold an emergency
23 board meeting or anything like that to administer the
24 funds. What it would be would be essentially
25 administered like the essential equipment program is so

1 that people would make a request, and they would need to
2 show us evidence of their needed purchases and stuff
3 like that, and then it would be subject to approval by
4 Rex and Randy and me. This is kind of a long policy,
5 but if you have no objections, I will read it into the
6 record so it's clear. Okay.

7 It's Policy Number 40, a new policy,
8 "Uninsured catastrophic loss assistance. On January 26,
9 2006, the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board
10 initiated a program making emergency communications
11 districts with uninsured catastrophic losses eligible
12 for financial assistance in an amount up to \$100,000.
13 In order to expedite such assistance during an
14 emergency, the Executive Director of the Emergency
15 Communications Board is hereby authorized to release
16 such funds, subject to approval by the TECB chairman, if
17 the following criteria have been met: Number 1, release
18 of the funds is necessary for the restoration or
19 adequate provision of 911 service; number 2, the funds
20 shall be used only for items authorized by the 911
21 Revenue Standards; number 3, the ECD director or
22 chairperson provides a signed certification of immediate
23 need, a signed certification that if funds provided to
24 the ECD are later reimbursed from insurance or other
25 reimbursing agency, said funds shall be returned to the

1 state board, a copy of vendor quotations for the items
2 for which funding is sought; number 4, the Director of
3 E911 Technical Services will conduct a site visit to
4 verify use of the funds as soon as practicable.

5 "Catastrophe is defined in this policy
6 as partial or complete loss of equipment or facilities
7 resulting from fire, earthquake, tornado, lightning,
8 hazardous waste, acts of God, or similar events deemed
9 catastrophic by the TECB in accordance with this policy.
10 This program is not intended to provide funding in lieu
11 of an ECD properly insuring its facilities and
12 property."

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You've heard the
14 recommendation from staff that we adopt Policy Number 40
15 involving uninsured catastrophic loss assistance.
16 What is the will of the board?

17 MR. TAYLOR: Move to adopt,
18 Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I have a motion from
20 Mr. Taylor. Do I have a second?

21 MR. LOWRY: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Second by Mr. Lowry
23 that we adopt Policy Number 40. Any discussion?

24 Lynn or Carolyn one, is there any
25 requirement in the law or anywhere that we know of that

1 requires an ECD to have liability insurance to cover
2 what they have?

3 MS. REED: I'm not aware of any, but
4 being that they're a municipality, there may be some
5 requirements that apply to municipalities in general. I
6 can research that if you'd like, but I don't know off
7 hand.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I was just
9 thinking -- and I think most districts carry liability
10 insurance on their stuff, but I'm wondering if there's
11 some out there that don't that we might want to look at.
12 Is that something we could require that they carry,
13 liability insurance? Or is that something we'd want to
14 do? I don't know. I'm just thinking out loud.

15 MS. REED: We could certainly pass a
16 policy making that a recommended practice, but that
17 wouldn't have the same power as law. We could pass a
18 rule if you go through a rule making or we could make
19 legislative changes. Alternatively, we could make
20 availability of this funding subject to their in fact
21 having reasonable insurance.

22 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You know, you get a
23 little small county that might not -- they don't do what
24 they need to do, and they don't have any liability
25 coverage, then they expect us to come in and pay for

1 their loss.

2 MS. REED: I'll be happy to research
3 that if you want.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Does the board have a
5 problem with her researching that to see if there's some
6 kind of requirements or something we might be able to
7 do?

8 MS. REED: Okay.

9 MS. QUESTELL: Would you like to just
10 postpone addressing this until the next meeting so that
11 we can determine whether to make it subject to having
12 insurance?

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We could always amend
14 it at the next meeting if you want to. Is that okay?
15 I'd hate to hold it up just because of that. Any other
16 questions or discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of
17 the motion say aye.

18 (Board members respond "aye.")

19 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
20 sign.

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.

23 The next item is to consider
24 authorizing commendation to Kathy Owens on the occasion
25 of her retirement in appreciation for her service on

1 behalf of 911.

2 MS. QUESTELL: I was shocked to learn
3 that somebody as youthful and energetic as Kathy was
4 going to retire, and I started thinking back on all the
5 really great things that she has done to support 911
6 throughout the years. And I mean she really did such a
7 great job as Sprint's 911 coordinator, and not only
8 that. She has served on innumerable state board
9 committees and has really contributed in many ways. And
10 I just would really appreciate it if the board would
11 authorize us to prepare a plaque for her.

12 CHAIRMAN PORTER: What's the will of
13 the board?

14 MR. LOWRY: So move.

15 MR. RICH: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I have a motion from
17 Mr. Lowry and a second from Mr. Rich that we allow the
18 staff to do a plaque for Ms. Owens. Any discussion?
19 Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

20 (Board members respond "aye.")

21 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
22 sign.

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries. I
25 tell you, folks in upper East Tennessee is really going

1 to miss her. She's been a great ally, and when it came
2 to 911, if they had a problem, took care of it really
3 quick, so I hate to see Kathy go. She's done a great
4 job. All right.

5 Next item on the agenda is to hear an
6 update on the status of the OIR/GIS mapping project. We
7 have Mr. Dennis Pedersen and Mr. James Wood with us
8 today, if y'all would like to come forward.

9 MR. PEDERSEN: Good morning. It's my
10 pleasure to be here.

11 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. Could I
12 get your name, please?

13 MR. PEDERSEN: My name is Dennis
14 Pedersen, Director of GIS Services in the Office of
15 Information Resources, GIS Services Section.

16 Mr. Chairman, Director Questell, Board
17 Members and Staff, it's my pleasure to be here today to
18 provide our annual report identifying the goals and
19 objectives that we've identified in a contract that we
20 entered into with the ECD last spring. Mr. James Wood
21 on my staff has distributed the contents of the report,
22 which I'll go over with you briefly.

23 The first section includes high level
24 accomplishments relative to our contract. The second
25 item in the report includes a summary of the site visits

1 that we've made throughout the past year. And the third
2 piece of the report includes a map that showcases the
3 status of our map production efforts to date. Before I
4 go into these details, I think it's important to provide
5 some background to make everyone understand where we've
6 come from in this relationship.

7 OIR/GIS Services' primary
8 responsibility is developing and maintaining the
9 Tennessee base mapping program which its primary goal is
10 to develop a statewide GIS base map consisting of
11 digital orthophotography, property map information, as
12 well as street center lines in supporting a wide range
13 of local and state business applications. The
14 relationship with OIR/GIS Services and the Emergency
15 Communications Board actually went back to about 2003
16 where we've provided a commercial data product known as
17 TeleAtlas Dynamap or GDT Dynamap to the emergency
18 communications districts to help them GIS-enable their
19 CAD applications.

20 That is a short-term solution until we
21 were able to complete our statewide base mapping
22 production efforts. I'm pleased to report that we are
23 two months away from completing our initial statewide
24 base map production. Over the last two years, we've
25 received funding from the legislature to complete 25

1 counties in 2005 and 23 counties in 2006. With the
2 advent of the base map data products, the second phase
3 of this effort began in the spring of last year with the
4 goal of how are we going to maintain particularly the
5 street center line data that we're creating.

6 In going over the accomplishments in
7 this annual report, the first achievement was, number 1,
8 to establish a new contract with TeleAtlas that's
9 allowing us to complete our enhancement work. Again,
10 we're taking our base map data and their commercial
11 product and really leveraging the power of these two
12 data sets to create what we're referring to as an
13 enhanced statewide center line database that we, along
14 with the ECDs, can maintain over time.

15 Along with the development of this new
16 contract that's allowing us to complete our enhancement
17 work, we've been fortunate to bring on additional staff
18 to support the development and the maintenance and
19 quality control of this project. We're fortunate to
20 bring on Mr. James Wood last February 1st. He's serving
21 as the project manager for this effort. We've also been
22 fortunate to hire some additional GIS technicians that
23 are working under Mr. Wood in support of this effort.

24 As of May 1st, we'll have three
25 technicians working under Mr. Wood in this endeavor.

1 The focus of our staff has been on reviewing the data
2 we're getting back from our vendor, TeleAtlas. To date,
3 we have reviewed 21 counties. And with the addition of
4 the third technician on May 1st, we hope to review the
5 initial 46 counties that are part of our phase I effort,
6 which I'll get into in a little bit here, hopefully by
7 the end of the summer.

8 In addition to managing this data
9 production effort, we've also been trying to effectively
10 communicate the goals and objectives of this statewide
11 center line data maintenance effort. Part of our new
12 contract with the ECD, we've developed a memorandum of
13 understanding between OIR/GIS Services and the ECDs that
14 outlines and discusses the objectives of how we're going
15 to work together in sharing data and maintaining it
16 between the locals and the state to facilitate
17 particularly the implementation of this statewide street
18 center line database with the advent of NG911 and the
19 migration from an analog to a true IP backbone in
20 support of public safety.

21 So we have received to date --
22 approximately 34 counties have signed and committed in
23 support of this MOU, this statewide data maintenance
24 effort. We have also received data from 11 other ECDs
25 across the state over the past year. Another

1 accomplishment that we've -- Mr. Wood in particular
2 deserves the credit for is the development of a new data
3 maintenance standard which we've branded as the
4 Tennessee Information for Public Safety or TIPS data
5 maintenance standards.

6 Again, going back to our relationship
7 with TeleAtlas, they're providing us with updated, real
8 line, very accurate, base method information with a
9 certain subset of attributes with street names, address
10 ranges. In reviewing the data products we're getting
11 back and reviewing the needs that the ECDs have, we've
12 identified there's additional attribute information that
13 we need to incorporate into this statewide data set.

14 And that's what's identified in what we
15 refer to as the TIPS maintenance standard. For example,
16 we include emergency service numbers, address point
17 features as part of this comprehensive data maintenance
18 standard. Relative to our efforts to improve
19 communication, we've also made available this TIPS
20 maintenance standard on our web site. It also
21 identifies an application that allows the ECDs and other
22 interested parties to view our current map production
23 status and QAQC efforts, so that highlights the report
24 in the handout.

25 What I'd like to do now is go to the

1 second handout that we've provided, which is a summary
2 of the site visits that Mr. Wood has made throughout the
3 state over the past year to do a number of things:
4 Number 1, to try and implement the TIPS data maintenance
5 standard, which we've done in about eight counties
6 across the state. In addition to that primary
7 objective, we've also had opportunities to provide ad
8 hoc GIS training and assistance, whether it's simple map
9 maintenance, assistance with some of the GIS
10 technologies, so it's software related, data maintenance
11 related, and Mr. Wood has done an excellent job
12 traveling the state and trying to communicate and help
13 the ECDs implement this TIPS data maintenance standard.

14 The last handout that's included in the
15 report is the status map of our enhanced statewide
16 center line database. We've broken this out into three
17 phases. As you can see here, we've got about two-thirds
18 of the state completed. As I mentioned before, our
19 initial statewide map production efforts for the base
20 mapping program will be completed in June of this year.
21 The enhanced data production efforts, which is the map
22 that you see in front of you here, will be completed
23 January 1st of 2008.

24 So we're very excited that we've got
25 the staffing capacity. We are on target for completing

1 this initial data production enhancement work. Later
2 this year per the details in our new contract, we'll be
3 providing some training to the ECDs, hopefully at the
4 TENA conference, and perhaps with some regional training
5 opportunities with Director Questell's office.

6 I'm very excited about where we are and
7 where we're going. I appreciate the board's support of
8 the Tennessee Base Mapping Program. Again, the primary
9 vision and the goal for the Tennessee Base Mapping
10 Program is to find multiple uses and applications for
11 this statewide base map, and certainly I think we've
12 found one here with the 911 community in support of
13 public safety. So with that, I'll be happy to answer
14 any questions that the board might have concerning this
15 project.

16 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Any questions of
17 Mr. Pedersen? I notice it looks like Mr. Wood has been
18 having to spend a lot of time in Maury County, and I
19 just wanted to make sure that the director down there
20 wasn't giving him any major problems.

21 MR. RICH: I was afraid that was going
22 to come up. I just had another discussion with him this
23 morning prior to the meeting. He needs to come back
24 again.

25 MR. PEDERSEN: Actually, Maury County

1 is one of the counties that we've installed the new TIPS
2 data maintenance standard, and we're very pleased and
3 certainly hope that the director is pleased as well.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Thanks. We
5 appreciate you coming up and updating us and James. It
6 sounds like things are going well. Just keep us
7 updated.

8 MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Our next item on the
10 agenda is to consider recommendations from the
11 Operations Advisory Committee on trial of alternative
12 power/backup power system, waiver of the one-hour UPS
13 requirement, and essential equipment program eligibility
14 requirements in Henry Count ECD. Rex? Who is going to
15 talk about this one? Rex?

16 MR. HOLLAWAY: Mr. Chairman, we heard
17 from Henry County back I guess in January and February
18 about a product that they wanted to evaluate that
19 purportedly would essentially eliminate the need for
20 both a generator and a UPS system by having a
21 combination system. In spite of that fact, they intend
22 to install a -- the system that they're looking at but
23 still maintain their generator they have, so in a sense
24 they would have two systems. But anyway the operations
25 committee met in March, March 8th, to consider whether

1 this was a technology that the board ought to consider
2 as an alternative to our standard policies on UPS and
3 generators.

4 So the group did meet. There was a
5 unanimous consensus that while we weren't ready to
6 recommend anything to the board at this point as far as
7 changing the standard, we felt like that it was worth
8 taking a further look at, or the committee felt it was
9 worth looking at further. And so we're recommending
10 essentially that a 90-day trial of this system be
11 observed and monitored by the operations committee.

12 The system is intended to go in around
13 May 15th in Henry County. And so 90 days from that
14 installation date, if the operations committee would
15 make a review and either make a recommendation or not to
16 the board to take some action to change the standards.
17 We further recommend that assuming the -- you approve
18 the first item to allow the evaluation of the new
19 product that you allow Henry County to continue to be
20 reimbursed out of the \$150,000 operational reimbursement
21 funds, essentially granting them a waiver of having the
22 Tier I requirement before they purchase any Tier II
23 items.

24 The fact that they don't have a
25 one-hour UPS during this 90-day period while they're

1 evaluating the system would essentially eliminate their
2 ability to receive some additional funds out of the
3 \$150,000 program.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. Does the board
5 members -- I don't know if y'all are familiar with this
6 piece of equipment they're looking at. Do you want to
7 briefly explain --

8 MR. HOLLAWAY: Okay. Yeah. I didn't
9 know how far you wanted to go into that. We're not even
10 mentioning the company name because we're very careful
11 that we do not want to endorse any product out there,
12 but essentially it combines an electric -- I wish I
13 almost had a graphic here, but it essentially combines
14 an electric motor and a generator that's driven by this
15 motor on the same shaft. And so the PSAP commercial
16 power is run through this generator, and the generator
17 actually generates the power for the PSAP, much like a
18 UPS would provide filtered power during normal
19 operations.

20 If the commercial power is lost, a
21 sensor recognizes that the rotor is slowing down, and at
22 some point during that slowdown process causes a
23 propane-powered engine to power up and then drive the
24 same rotor that the commercial power was driving. And
25 all this takes place in such a time frame that there's

1 never any lost power in the PSAP. That's the
2 presentation that the company made. This is what we
3 want to see during a time when there would potentially
4 be thunderstorms and other problems that might force
5 kind of an exercise of this equipment.

6 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I think the reason
7 they want to do the trial is because it's putting all
8 your eggs in one basket basically in this one piece of
9 equipment. Instead of having a UPS and a generator
10 sitting there, it's all in one.

11 MR. HOLLAWAY: Right, and in spite of
12 the fact that while it may theoretically work, there's
13 still a concern that it is a single unit, and if a
14 terrorist destroyed that one item, then you actually
15 have a single point of failure.

16 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You've heard the
17 request of staff to allow them to do a 90-day trial with
18 this new piece of equipment and then the committee get
19 back together and review that piece of equipment.

20 MR. HOLLAWAY: And essentially you
21 review the reports and statistics that are generated,
22 how many times this system experienced a loss of
23 commercial power and how well it performed and
24 everything we can learn about the actual results of the
25 test. So we would -- it's much like you say, we almost

1 hope for some thunderstorms or other activities that
2 might affect their electrical power up there, and we
3 probably could just turn the commercial power off and
4 really test it too.

5 CHAIRMAN PORTER: So this is a trial to
6 see how this thing is going to work. I guess one thing
7 I have a concern of is if we're only doing a 90-day test
8 just to see if this is going to work, why would we need
9 to do a waiver on anything with them? I mean 90 days is
10 a very short time. Couldn't we wait and let's see if
11 this thing works or not and what the committee's
12 recommendation is because if this thing doesn't work,
13 then we would want Henry County to install a UPS system
14 to meet our requirements, or if we don't think it's
15 worthy of changing our policy, then it seems like we're
16 kind of getting maybe our wagon in front of our horse.
17 Am I wrong about that?

18 MR. HOLLAWAY: Well, let me just first
19 say that I'm the facilitator of the committee and not
20 the company chairperson, but it was a unanimous decision
21 after much discussion that Henry County be allowed to go
22 ahead and purchase these Tier II items. He very much
23 understands that the UPS as approved by the board would
24 have to be purchased if we fail to certify this
25 equipment or this technology.

1 He is getting this equipment for
2 nothing except for installation charges, so it's not
3 like he's going to be spending money for something he
4 might not be able to use later.

5 MS. MASON: I have a question.

6 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Carolann?

7 MS. MASON: Does this system also
8 condition the power? Is it going to protect them
9 against power surges?

10 MR. HOLLAWAY: Right. Essentially, you
11 don't actually see commercial power on the output end of
12 the system because you're actually generating your own
13 power.

14 MS. MASON: Runs it all the time?

15 MR. HOLLAWAY: Yeah.

16 MR. LOWRY: As soon as I heard about
17 this, I called Rex, and we talked about this for a
18 while. It sounded almost like perpetual motion, and I
19 wasn't quite sure how it was going to work. So then I
20 went to the web site and downloaded everything I could
21 find on it. The company probably wouldn't like me
22 saying this, but I think it's a takeoff of the old
23 DynaMotor.

24 MR. HOLLAWAY: Yeah. They're very
25 careful not to use terms like flywheel because that's

1 some other technology.

2 MR. LOWRY: Maybe it goes back too far.
3 It looks like it would really work as long as the power
4 is there to turn the motor to make the power, and I'd
5 like to see -- you know, it could be that they're on to
6 something that everybody could use. I make a motion
7 that they be allowed to proceed.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Now are you doing the
9 waiver where they can go ahead and spend their other
10 money too?

11 MR. LOWRY: Yeah.

12 MR. TAYLOR: I would second.

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We have a motion by
14 Mr. Lowry and a second by Mr. Taylor that we allow them
15 to proceed and that we give Henry County a waiver on our
16 UPS requirement that would allow them to go ahead and
17 purchase other equipment under our funding program, Tier
18 I, Tier II. Does that pretty well say it? Okay. Any
19 discussion?

20 MR. SMITH: I may just add, Mr.
21 Chairman, I think we broadcast that meeting, if I'm not
22 mistaken. I don't know if it's still archived, but if
23 it is, if anyone wanted to hear those deliberations,
24 there was a thorough amount of information that was
25 discussed among all those committee members, and there

1 were some 911 representatives, telecommunication
2 industry representatives, so I think we had a good deal
3 of input from people with a vast amount of experience.

4 MS. QUESTELL: I don't think that the
5 meeting was actually -- it was on the phone that people
6 could listen in on, but it's not recorded.

7 MR. SMITH: Oh, okay. It was a
8 conference call. I knew we had it on in my office.

9 MS. QUESTELL: But Rex did do a summary
10 of the meeting that we would be happy to send out to
11 anybody that's interested.

12 MR. HOLLAWAY: I can provide the web
13 site information. Again, we're not endorsing this
14 product, and even if we agreed that this was acceptable,
15 we still wouldn't endorse the company, but we certainly
16 are just looking at the technology.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Just to clarify this,
18 I don't want us to -- six months from now there be
19 questions on this. I guess my concern is making sure
20 that Henry County understands that we're giving them
21 this waiver, but if they go spend all their
22 reimbursement money to buy other equipment, then this
23 comes back to the committee and the committee doesn't --
24 we get bad data or whatever, the committee says, no,
25 we're not going to change our one-hour UPS requirement,

1 that it would be up to the district for them to go and
2 purchase a one-hour UPS to meet the requirements out of
3 their own funds if they don't have money left over from
4 the reimbursement program. Is that what everybody
5 understands? I want to make sure that we clarify what
6 we're doing here. Is that what you meant?

7 MR. LOWRY: Yes, sir. If I was Henry
8 County, I would make sure I had sufficient funds to get
9 a UPS if this doesn't pan out.

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I just don't want in
11 six months them to be out of money, then say, we can't
12 buy a UPS, and there we'd be. Okay. Any other
13 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

14 (Board members respond "aye.")

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
16 sign.

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.

19 Next item on the agenda is to consider
20 status of the dispute between Grainger County ECD and
21 the town of Bean Station. We have Mr. Randy Holt from
22 Grainger County with us today.

23 Randy, come on up and give us a brief
24 update.

25 MR. HOLT: We have been in constant

1 negotiation since August, and it seems like every time
2 we get close, the rules change. It started out over
3 money. Now the money issue is settled, and now it's
4 wording. Just to put it simply, the mayor and his
5 attorney feel the dispatch service is part of 911
6 service. They say they're one in the same, you can't
7 split them because their opinion is you can't answer a
8 911 call and then do nothing with it.

9 And since we have always been a direct
10 dispatch -- of course, we didn't start until 2004, but
11 the sheriff's office used to do it prior to that, and
12 it's technically just always been a direct dispatch.
13 And they say that we have already established a duty to
14 provide, and that's where we are. Our opinion is that
15 they're exactly wrong. And so that's pretty much where
16 we are.

17 Now why I'm here is to ask for some
18 help. I can't sign in good conscience, in good
19 conscience, that I have all my interlocal agreements
20 signed and be able to access any of that 150,000 when in
21 fact I do not have them signed. I have the county's and
22 the other two cities', but I don't have Bean Station's.
23 I have projects right now that are stalled because I
24 can't get my money. And, again, to be quite frank, Bean
25 Station is also using that as leverage. They figure

1 that if they can wait me out long enough, we'll have to
2 concede to what they want because until they sign an
3 interlocal agreement, I can't access any money from you.
4 I'm asking for a waiver because, as Lynn well knows, I
5 think we've done everything humanly possible to get that
6 contract, and I'm not done yet.

7 I'll go back to their meeting next
8 Monday night. Hopefully, it's settled, and I brought a
9 copy of the local paper that just came out before I came
10 down here. And the mayor still -- he doesn't like the
11 wording because it uses the wording "dispatch."

12 MS. QUESTELL: I would like to say that
13 we've been working with Randy for months on this. Staff
14 has discussed the issue with Bean Station's lawyer, and
15 I just -- the nature of the dispute is just as Randy has
16 said it.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I guess my question
18 then is what can we as the board -- what can we do to
19 help Grainger through this? What's our possibilities?

20 MS. QUESTELL: Well, as he has
21 suggested, we have a requirement with the \$150,000
22 equipment funding program that if a district shares,
23 jointly uses, contributes, obtains any facilities,
24 equipment, resources, or income of any kind with another
25 governmental entity, there must be an interlocal

1 agreement memorializing the relationship before the
2 district could access that fund. And the board could
3 waive that requirement if it so desired in this one
4 circumstance with the understanding that this is a
5 unique circumstance because of the length of the dispute
6 and the great effort that Director Holt has gone through
7 to try to resolve it.

8 He has gone and talked to the board of
9 mayor and aldermen at Bean Station more than one time
10 and has really made a huge effort to get this interlocal
11 agreement.

12 MS. REED: I think there's also an
13 imminent need here because aren't you planning to move
14 into a new facility in June?

15 MR. HOLT: We have a move scheduled for
16 June 13th, and we've already purchased the UPS system.
17 It's sitting in the new center, waiting to be installed.
18 Without the state reimbursement, I don't have the money,
19 and the move -- without I can start accessing this
20 money, I will have to cancel the move.

21 MR. BILBREY: How many interlocal
22 agreements do you have?

23 MR. HOLT: I should have four with Bean
24 Station because I have the three small cities of
25 Rutledge, Blaine, and Bean Station and the county. And

1 I have the county's interlocal agreement in place and
2 Rutledge and Blaine. And I have written about six
3 different versions of an interlocal agreement to try to
4 get them to approve it, and all have been rejected.

5 Now we're back to the original that at
6 one time in August, they did submit this original, the
7 mayor did sign it and send it down, but he had changed
8 the money amount from 15,000 to 12-. So that's when the
9 ball started rolling, and it just kept mushrooming and
10 getting bigger and bigger and more out of proportion.

11 As I say, it started over money. They
12 insisted that we would cut it and, of course, by your
13 policy, we can't cut it and we won't. We've not cut
14 anybody's contribution, and everything we're trying to
15 pursue with them has not cut that contribution. But now
16 it's down to wording.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You heard the request
18 from Grainger County.

19 MR. RICH: Just to get the discussion
20 started, I'll move that we grant the waiver to Grainger
21 County.

22 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I have a motion from
23 Mr. Rich. Do I have a second?

24 MR. LOWRY: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay.

1 MR. BILBREY: Explain the motions, the
2 waiver.

3 CHAIRMAN PORTER: What we would do
4 is -- the way I understand what we're doing here is that
5 we would give Grainger a special -- that they don't have
6 to have that interlocal agreement with them to be able
7 to go ahead and access the \$150,000 reimbursement funds,
8 but they would be required to continue to work with Bean
9 Station and get it. That way, we won't hold them up.

10 MR. BILBREY: One-time deal, Bean
11 Station only?

12 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Right. I guess I'd
13 like -- well, let me ask this. Are there discussion or
14 questions by the board members?

15 MR. LOWRY: Do you have a legal
16 attorney involved, or what's their opinion?

17 MR. HOLT: Yes. Our attorney agrees
18 with us completely. Our only problem, as we see it --
19 I'm not going to say a problem, but the law, as you-all
20 well know, is real vague when it comes to 911 service
21 and dispatcher. It doesn't say a lot. And, of course,
22 each attorney feels like that this -- although the board
23 has great power, but it doesn't have any power to force
24 any of its policies and regulations on a municipality.

25 You can basically tell us what to do as

1 a 911 district, but you can't force a city to enter into
2 any kind of agreement. So what it all boils down to, we
3 have a mayor and an attorney that wants to put the 911
4 laws on trial. They say they're too vague and they --
5 without talking bad about anybody, but that's their
6 intent. They don't want to sign. They want to go to
7 court. They want to set precedents on what 911 really
8 is.

9 In our opinion, the 911 is simply the
10 answering and doing something with a 911 emergency call.
11 They say it's much bigger than that, that the doing
12 something is and must be direct dispatch, if you've
13 already started that way. Although I've read the law
14 and you-all have too -- I know what it says. I mean we
15 can pick any way we want to do it, but they say, again,
16 that we've already set a precedent by doing it by direct
17 dispatch. We now don't have the luxury of just
18 stopping.

19 Our opinion is and our attorney's is
20 that, yes, we do. So if we can't reach an agreement by
21 this interlocal agreement, it's going to wind up settled
22 in a court of law. And I'm afraid that we're just at
23 the beginning of it because there's other entities in
24 East Tennessee now that have been calling me that are
25 starting to have the same problem, so this -- what Lynn

1 had brought up earlier about setting up a committee to
2 try to address this funding, I think you're at a time
3 that it's at a must.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Carolyn, do we have
5 any options? Does the board have any options on Bean
6 Station to do anything?

7 MS. REED: In my opinion, there's
8 nothing that we can do -- as Randy said, there's nothing
9 that we can do to force them. We can and have offered
10 that we would come and meet with them and discuss the
11 law with them and discuss the situation, but the Bean
12 Station attorney is very unwilling to consider those
13 options and doesn't want to hear the board's opinion of
14 what the law is.

15 MR. HOLT: And I will add that I fought
16 this battle for many months without an attorney. My
17 background in law enforcement for over 20 years, I can
18 read the law and, for the most part, I can interpret it.
19 But when it gets into the gray areas --

20 MS. REED: I will say for the record
21 that the law is crystal clear. The districts have three
22 options. They can relay, transfer, or direct dispatch.
23 There's nothing in the law that requires that a district
24 will direct dispatch. And so I will say for the record
25 that I think that any interpretation that tries to

1 impose that as a requirement on a district is completely
2 false.

3 MR. HOLT: We feel very confident that
4 if it goes to court, we're going to win, but there's the
5 cost of a legal battle, so we're trying to settle it. I
6 know well that in any negotiation, you have to give
7 something. You can't stay firm on your position and
8 settle anything. But the money part, we have stayed
9 firm on. We've changed wording. As I say, I wrote six
10 different ones.

11 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You dispatch for them
12 right now, right?

13 MR. HOLT: Yes, we do.

14 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Has your board
15 thought about giving them a date certain that says from
16 this date forward, we're not going to dispatch for you
17 anymore and where do you want your 911 calls sent to?

18 MR. HOLT: Yes, and at one point we had
19 even set a cutoff date, but the board had -- we did
20 realize we had used a 30-day cutoff notice. We also run
21 NCIC for them. One of the policies by TBI is that you
22 must give them a 60-day notice to stop, so basically we
23 just pulled that, so that did open the door for more
24 negotiation because we had already set the cutoff date.

25 So after their meeting this coming

1 Monday if it probably -- I can -- I'm very sure that if
2 we don't reach an agreement Monday night that at our
3 next meeting, that process will start all over again.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. Any other
5 question or discussion from the board? I have a motion
6 to grant the waiver to grant your county this one time
7 on the Bean Station interlocal agreement so that they
8 can go ahead and be able to use the reimbursement funds
9 that we provided. If there is no other discussion, all
10 in favor of the motion say aye.

11 (Board members respond "aye.")

12 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
13 sign.

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries. At
16 least that will let you go ahead and start with your
17 money. Keep us updated on how that goes though. If you
18 would, keep Lynn updated on where it's at.

19 MR. HOLT: I will. I have brought
20 actually some reimbursement. I'm hand delivering it.
21 Who would you like for me to hand them to? Thank you
22 all.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Thank you. We've
24 been at it for about an hour and 15 minutes. We have
25 five items left on the agenda. Do you want to break, or

1 do you want to keep going? Let's take a five- or
2 ten-minute break.

3 (Recess taken.)

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All right. We'll
5 come back to order, and let the record show that all the
6 board members are present again and we're back in
7 session.

8 The next item on the agenda is consider
9 status of discussions between LaFollette ECD and
10 Campbell County ECD. Lynn, do you want to talk about
11 that?

12 MS. QUESTELL: Yes. Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman. At the last meeting there was some
14 discussion about LaFollette's Emergency Communications
15 District and Campbell County Emergency Communications
16 District entering into some discussions about how they
17 could improve their service to their mutual
18 constituents. And at the time it was decided that Tom
19 Beehan and staff would go and attend a board meeting at
20 the LaFollette Emergency Communications District.

21 And Carolyn and I attended a meeting of
22 the LaFollette ECD Board of Directors on April 10th, and
23 they were kind enough to allow me to speak to them. And
24 at the time I explained that Tennessee is a national
25 leader in 911 because it has worked to establish a

1 uniform statewide system, and I discussed that in this
2 age of mobility, there's no person and no town and no
3 county that's simply an island and that the people in
4 LaFollette have to necessarily go into Campbell County
5 to leave -- to get out of town.

6 And we discussed the fact that Campbell
7 County is financially distressed, and I mentioned that
8 that in part could be due to the fact that most of the
9 landlines in Campbell County, especially businesses, are
10 in LaFollette. I told them also about the board's
11 incentives to encourage consolidation, and I reminded
12 them that the space problems that they both have could
13 be addressed by that.

14 We encouraged them to consider
15 optimizing the resources that they have at hand. I also
16 told them that I would ask the board to fund mediation
17 if the LaFollette ECD and Campbell County ECD were
18 interested in that. After considerable discussion, the
19 members of the LaFollette ECD Board of Directors
20 unanimously voted to contact the Campbell County ECD and
21 offered to hold a special meeting together at a mutually
22 convenient time to discuss matters leading to the mutual
23 betterment of both ECDs.

24 And I want to thank the LaFollette ECD
25 members for their kind hospitality and commend them for

1 this good first step toward maximizing the resources
2 available to them both to serve and protect the public.
3 I talked with the director of the Campbell County ECD,
4 and he welcomed this development.

5 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You've heard the
6 report back from Lynn of the discussions between
7 LaFollette and Campbell and the status on that. Any
8 questions of Lynn? I don't think we need any action on
9 this report.

10 MS. QUESTELL: Not at this time. Thank
11 you, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I appreciate Lynn and
13 Carolyn going up and meeting with these folks and trying
14 to work that out. Hopefully, that's the start of
15 something that could happen in the future.

16 The next item is consider status of
17 Jackson County ECD as a financially distressed district
18 and to hear a request for financial assistance. Would
19 the Jackson County folks come up, please? Have a seat
20 at the tables and, if you would, both of you introduce
21 yourselves so we can get it into the record.

22 MR. DENSON: My name is Joey Denson.
23 I'm the current chairman of the board.

24 MR. MORGAN: My name is Jim Morgan.
25 I'm the director.

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Lynn, do you want to
2 start?

3 MS. QUESTELL: We had asked Jackson
4 County Emergency Communications District to come in as
5 part of its rate increase extension process, but once we
6 started looking at it, it was clear that they had three
7 consecutive years of a negative change in net assets, so
8 this is the requirement for a financially distressed
9 district. Also, Jim Morgan had contacted us and
10 suggested possible ways to alleviate their financially
11 distressed condition.

12 And so we wanted him to come and talk
13 to y'all about that. I think that their financial
14 problems are due in large part to a 2002 loan agreement
15 to purchase equipment that left them with over \$600,000
16 in debt with a balloon payment in 2007. And the board
17 is aware of that because they came at that time -- in
18 2004, I mean -- to ask for financial assistance, and the
19 board took steps to try to assist them at that time.

20 Jackson County was actually the reason
21 that we took steps to get the law changed on the
22 definition of a financially distressed district to allow
23 us to step in before the condition was apparent in the
24 financial statements. That's really all I have.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. I think maybe

1 to clear it up a little bit for the board as far as when
2 you look at Jackson County and you have all of their
3 financial or documents there in front of you, when you
4 put depreciation on, they had not been including
5 depreciation in your budget; is that correct, Jim?

6 MR. MORGAN: That's correct.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. And when you
8 put the depreciation on since they had all of those
9 equipment purchases back a few years ago, it puts them
10 into the red, which makes them look like a financially
11 distressed district, and so that's the reason we're
12 bringing them in here today. Do we want to proceed on
13 this? Does somebody have a report that you want to go
14 over or -- Robert or somebody?

15 MS. QUESTELL: Are you prepared to do a
16 report, Robert, on their financial situation?

17 MR. MCLEOD: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Let's do that next,
19 if y'all don't mind.

20 MR. MCLEOD: Yes. If we look at the
21 financial aspect of their report and page 3 financial
22 information, as was mentioned, they do have a negative
23 return, a negative assets change in three consecutive
24 years, and I discussed at length with the director about
25 these numbers and what they indicate. There's something

1 though that is even more important here is the findings
2 over the last three years in the audits, and I know of
3 the chairman with all intention is going to correct some
4 of those problems that we have here occurring throughout
5 the year, budget expenditure, fund transfer which is
6 something that perhaps happened before he was on board.

7 Another thing we have is the timely
8 payment of tax liability. That, again, is history, is
9 behind us. When we look to 2005, again, we have the
10 problem of the budget going over -- the expenditure
11 going over the budgeted amount. And there's a simple
12 solution to that. I'm sure he's aware of that. So most
13 of those I think and feel confident will be corrected if
14 not this year but very soon. And I'll be working
15 closely with the director to get some of these problems
16 resolved.

17 When we look at the projections -- and
18 this was really where we got a little concerned because
19 even with the projections, we're still looking at a
20 negative change in net assets for the district. And
21 hence we conclude that, yes, they need some help, and
22 they are indeed financially distressed.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: One thing that might
24 clarify -- and I was thinking because some of you may
25 not have been on the board when we first started looking

1 at Jackson County. I'll bring you up to date a little
2 bit. They had -- the 911 director at that time was also
3 the Clerk and Master in the county, and there was some
4 embezzlement of funds or moving around of funds or
5 whatever. What we found out, between the 911 funds,
6 Clerk and Master funds, and some county fire department
7 grant funds or so forth -- and he was later removed from
8 office and I think indicted on charges in Jackson
9 County.

10 I don't know the outcome of any of
11 that, but all of this came about a few years ago, and a
12 lot of those things that he was talking about in the
13 past with those audit findings, we went through a long
14 period of time with Jackson County trying to get them
15 back on level footing and to get things kind of leveled
16 out down there, so there's a lot that's been going on.
17 One of the things that's caused I think a major part of
18 their problem was under the direction of that director,
19 I would have to say they probably had the worst 911
20 operations in the state.

21 There's no place I've ever been that it
22 was as bad as it was in Jackson County, but he spent a
23 humongous amount of money, along with the board -- over
24 \$600,000, I guess -- to put in a new system and a new
25 building and so forth and maybe went a little too

1 extravagant, but they went from having one of the worst
2 911 centers for a county their size to probably having
3 one of the best.

4 But now all of a sudden, you've got to
5 pay for all that stuff, so they have a large amount of
6 debt that's sticking out there that's causing problems.
7 So maybe that gives you a little bit of history on where
8 we've been with Jackson County at this point.

9 Jim, either one of y'all, do y'all want
10 to make any statements or anything to the board as to
11 what's been going on in Jackson?

12 MR. DENSON: Well, as Jim was saying
13 there, of course, I mean I've been on board for six
14 months as director -- I mean -- excuse me -- as chairman
15 of the board. We have, I feel like, made some positive
16 steps forward in reconciling some of the problems that
17 we have identified. Actually, we found out a lot of
18 this stuff, kind of blindsided and things. And every
19 time we do determine a situation or a problem, we have
20 aggressively attacked it and tried to correct and make
21 financial corrections as well as operational and
22 everything like that.

23 As the chairman stated, years ago,
24 yeah, there was quite a bit of problems. And we feel
25 that we are on the right track, but as Randy said, we've

1 just kind of inherited a humongous load here all of a
2 sudden, seems like.

3 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Mr. Morgan, anything
4 else?

5 MR. MORGAN: Just that I came on at the
6 end of October, and it seems as I clear up one problem,
7 I find three or four more. And we're doing our best to
8 try to clarify and get accurate records and some of
9 these things, but when we're dealing with some of the
10 things -- we became aware of the balloon payment
11 probably in the last seven or eight months, and we have
12 refinanced that and done away with the balloon payment,
13 but it has extended our equipment payment out for
14 another five years.

15 But we've also lowered it in that
16 process as well, so we're still paying a large equipment
17 debt at this time.

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: When y'all did your
19 new system, that was in what?

20 MR. MORGAN: '02.

21 CHAIRMAN PORTER: '02. Let me
22 understand and make sure I've got it right. Your
23 request that's coming from Jackson County is for us to
24 allow -- to give a waiver to Jackson County that would
25 allow us to go back to the \$150,000 equipment

1 reimbursement program is that -- we would give you a
2 waiver. That cutoff was July 1, 2003, is as far back as
3 we would go to allow to be reimbursed for new equipment.
4 They're asking us since they did such an extravagant
5 system that we allow them to go back to the 2002 to use
6 that \$150,000 to be reimbursed for their new system.

7 And looking at if the 14 million that's
8 going to be going out to the districts in new money,
9 added to that, did you feel like that y'all would be
10 able to make it with those two items for the future or
11 not?

12 MR. MORGAN: I feel like we will. Part
13 of our problem is not having very accurate records and
14 making expenditures on what the board was presented at
15 the time, and that causes a problem. When you don't
16 have the money there you think you have and you're
17 making expenditures on that, that makes it difficult for
18 you to really balance your budget and do things that you
19 need to do. Honestly, we have spent -- if you want to
20 look at our equipment payments from July of '03, we have
21 spent that money on what we're asking for.

22 But because the board has established
23 the deadline on the purchase of '03, we really didn't
24 qualify it because we purchased it in '02 is what it is,
25 but it was a lease-purchase agreement is what it is.

1 MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, if you look
2 at page 2 -- I draw your attention to page 2 -- and look
3 at the level of services that Jackson County is
4 providing for the entities around them, and they have
5 two interlocal agreements. And I'm wondering if you
6 couldn't revisit these interlocal agreements and ask for
7 some more money.

8 MR. MORGAN: We could. Jackson County
9 is a small county. I can tell you I've been part of the
10 budget process with the county for several years. I've
11 run the EMS there as well. Money is tight. With the
12 city, it's also tight. We could revisit it, but I'm not
13 very hopeful on getting any additional funds.

14 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Is it the city of
15 Gainesboro and the county -- they contribute what,
16 65,762? Is that what --

17 MR. MORGAN: The county will go to
18 49,000 this next fiscal year, and the city will go to
19 19,750, I believe it is, the next fiscal year as well.

20 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I will -- of course,
21 Jackson County is one of my neighboring counties, I
22 guess is the reason I know a lot about it. I've been
23 involved with it since the financial distress came about
24 years ago, but Jim just took the director of the 911
25 over -- how many months ago, Jim?

1 MR. MORGAN: I started basically the
2 first of November.

3 CHAIRMAN PORTER: First of November.
4 Jim is also the EMS director and a county employee in
5 Jackson County, and I think -- of course, Jim is doing
6 this job for free as the 911 director, which I'm going
7 to commend him for that, to try to straighten this thing
8 out. But Jim is dedicated to his county and to the
9 emergency services down there, and I commend him for
10 trying to get this all straightened out.

11 Then I guess -- are we looking here
12 today to -- do we need to make a motion and decide if
13 Jackson County is financially distressed? Is that
14 something we need to do here today?

15 MS. QUESTELL: No, sir. I think
16 they're deemed financially distressed under the law.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. So we don't
18 have to take any board action to do that.

19 MS. QUESTELL: No, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN PORTER: The other thing on
21 the table is we have their request for this waiver on
22 the equipment that we need to take action on then,
23 right?

24 MS. QUESTELL: Yes, sir.

25 MS. REED: Can I add one thing? I

1 think it is important to go ahead and recognize that
2 they have now been discovered to be financially
3 distressed because that brings them under our policy
4 that says they can't spend more than \$5,000 without
5 board approval, so it's important that we publicly
6 recognize they are financially distressed.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. With no
8 objection from any of the board members, then we'll let
9 the record show that we've found that Jackson County is
10 now financially distressed, and they would need to
11 follow all the guidelines set forth by this board for a
12 financially distressed district until deemed otherwise.
13 Any objection from any of the board members? Okay. Let
14 the record show that. Okay.

15 Board members, you've heard Jackson
16 County. Do you have questions and at some point
17 discussion? And we need to at some point decide on the
18 request from Jackson County for giving the waiver on the
19 equipment.

20 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have a
21 quick question. I was just looking over the information
22 provided to us, and as you alluded to earlier, I think
23 as far back as 2002, I note there that the Jackson
24 County district received an additional \$180,000 that has
25 not been available to other districts, and I'm purely

1 going by recollection here, and correct me if I'm wrong.

2 But I know when that situation came to
3 light, there was some issues that were similar if not in
4 fact the same that are mentioned in this cause here.
5 Does that 180,000 include the entire correction or the
6 assistance that was given by the board previously until
7 such time as these other items -- you know, the
8 initiative to take the rural dispatcher grant and GIS --
9 let me ask this. Was that the bailout amount initially?

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: That's the way I
11 remember it, yes. That was the total bailout amount to
12 get them back to where they could at least continue
13 operations.

14 MR. SMITH: I think there were payroll
15 issues, there were default issues on equipment, there
16 were certain things that we would not want to see occur
17 that would adversely affect or cease the operation of
18 911 services. But I just wanted to make sure that I
19 understood the timelines and the amounts we're talking
20 about.

21 MS. QUESTELL: And the reason we had
22 the law changed so that if it appeared that the
23 continued operation of the district was at risk, the
24 board could deem a district financially distressed, and
25 that was why was because the continued operation of the

1 district was clearly in question. And that's why the
2 board provided them with additional funds, because they
3 were just not going to be able to continue to operate.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Questions?
5 Discussion?

6 MR. LOWRY: Looking down through
7 here -- and it may be included in something else, but do
8 you-all have at least your treasurer bonded? It says
9 that there's nothing -- there's no --

10 MR. MORGAN: All the officers on the
11 911 board are bonded. There's the four: The chairman,
12 the vice chairman, the secretary, and the treasurer. We
13 require two signatures from any of the four board
14 members on checks, so at least two of the officers have
15 to sign a check before it can be paid. So we -- at this
16 current time, we bond all officers.

17 MR. LOWRY: I'm just looking there at
18 the budget, forty-four fourteen, it shows no expenses
19 being expended for a bond.

20 MR. MORGAN: It may have been
21 oversight. Believe me, it's in the budget.

22 MR. SMITH: Let me ask, does that bring
23 to issue the point -- and I noticed that two consecutive
24 years findings regarding the chart of accounts -- I
25 think that's exactly the point that Mr. Lowry was

1 bringing up there. It's hard to tell if surety bonds
2 and premiums are being paid if they're not in the
3 appropriate line items. And I know that there have been
4 great strides made and great improvements made there in
5 oversight, but in years after 2002, items such as
6 missing revenue, collections, and just what I mentioned
7 about the chart of accounts -- and I know we've spoken
8 earlier about offering assistance and doing everything
9 that's feasible for this board to do, but I just wanted
10 to make sure my understanding of that is clear and the
11 timeline is what we're seeing in this report.

12 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Jim, correct me if
13 I'm wrong. I think I either read or heard somewhere
14 that y'all had changed and corrected your chart of
15 accounts and are using the chart of accounts that's
16 given by the audit that you need to be using. Have
17 y'all done that yet?

18 MR. MORGAN: That's correct, yes.

19 CHAIRMAN PORTER: So that should -- in
20 the future that should correct that issue, and that was
21 a lot of the problem in the past. You couldn't tell
22 what they had spent and on what. Let me try for
23 something here. Let me throw something out, and I'm not
24 trying to put words in anybody's mouth. I'm just trying
25 to get us moving on here.

1 Would the board be willing to grant the
2 waiver to them on the equipment, knowing that this other
3 money that we're going to be putting out for the
4 district, the extra 14 million, is going to be going out
5 to them and then us monitor -- since they're financially
6 distressed, we're going to be doing that anyway --
7 monitor them for the next 6 to 12 months and see how
8 things go, if that extra money gets out and see where
9 they stand, then come back at a future board meeting if
10 we need to do something else and keep them under our
11 wing?

12 Staff is going to have to be approving
13 anything \$5,000 and over and see if we can't help them
14 get back where they need to be. And along with these
15 new folks that are going to be working with the
16 district, is that something that the board would
17 consider, or where do y'all want to go with this?

18 MR. LOWRY: How much is your payment
19 that's due either right now or already past due that
20 you're talking about?

21 MR. MORGAN: The only thing that we
22 really have outstanding that's past due is a software
23 maintenance agreement to Southern Software that takes
24 care of our CAD. As far as our equipment payment, when
25 we refinance that, we've got it back on -- and in some

1 of the expenses it showed in our report, those are on
2 like a lease-purchase, and we're not behind on those
3 payments. At this point I think there's about 11- or
4 \$12,000 with Southern Software that we're behind. And
5 at best, that's all I know of right now that needs to be
6 taken care of.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: What you've done is
8 you refinanced the equipment?

9 MR. MORGAN: Correct.

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: What's the monthly
11 payment on that now?

12 MR. MORGAN: About \$4500.

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: So instead of one big
14 balloon payment, it's financed out. I think what they
15 were looking at is if they could get reimbursed. I
16 think you've got what, 125,000 left of the 150-?

17 MR. MORGAN: Roughly.

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: If they got that,
19 they'd have a nest egg there to be able to operate on
20 with the expectations of the extra 72,000 or whatever
21 that's coming with the 14 million. And you take away
22 the depreciation, that would put them in the black and
23 they would be able to operate.

24 MS. MASON: If we're waiving the 150-
25 are we going to let them sit on it? We're talking about

1 a nest egg.

2 CHAIRMAN PORTER: That would be up to
3 the board.

4 MR. BILBREY: You know, just what you
5 said a while ago, they are now a distressed district.
6 That puts them in a different light as far as this board
7 is concerned. So what are we going to do with it?

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: That's where I was
9 trying to get us going some direction.

10 MR. BILBREY: I know, but we need some
11 direction from the staff, direction and recommendation
12 on where we are going and what we should do. See, this
13 puts the waiver in a different light too. They're
14 distressed. Now if they weren't distressed, I'd have
15 sort of a different attitude, but they are distressed,
16 so what are we going to do otherwise for them and with
17 them? We've got to do something by law.

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Right. Well, and
19 correct me if I'm wrong. We have a whole set of
20 guidelines that the staff will start with now, working
21 with the district, approving all the purchases, working
22 with them to try to make sure that the expenses and
23 everything is being taken care of and that their money
24 is managed wisely. I mean it starts a whole new process
25 as of today. That's what I was talking about.

1 Do we allow that process to happen over
2 the next 6 to 12 months, then come back and see where we
3 are, and is there something else you want to do? I'm
4 not trying to put words in anybody's mouth. I just want
5 to -- we've got to come up with something.

6 MR. BILBREY: If we do that, going that
7 direction, can they come back with some sort of
8 recommendation what we should do financially at the next
9 meeting and you guys survive with no problem until the
10 next meeting? Are you in a survival mode, or are you in
11 an operating mode?

12 MR. MORGAN: We're in an operating
13 mode. We can make payroll and make payments and things
14 at the present time.

15 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, their bank
16 account is low. They have no savings. They're in
17 arrears 11,000 plus with their software. They have
18 payroll, et cetera. I think some of the money should be
19 released to them and also so they could have a little
20 bit of money or some funds for surge and understand that
21 anything 5,000 or more, they're going to have to get
22 from the board. We can bring them back in another
23 month, two months, or next board meeting or whatever,
24 but I think some funds need to be released to the
25 district.

1 MR. LOWRY: They can't make their
2 payments unless we do.

3 MR. TAYLOR: Exactly.

4 MS. REED: Can I make a point?

5 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Sure.

6 MS. REED: I understand that you-all
7 had said that it's going to be hard to get more money
8 from the county or city, but if you look at their
9 expenses, the money they're getting from the county and
10 city are less than half of just the salary expenses for
11 the dispatcher, and it may be -- you know, this board
12 already gave them more than \$180,000 just a couple years
13 ago.

14 You know, at some point it's just a
15 continuous bleed and something else has to be done. If
16 you-all would want, maybe staff could go and meet with
17 them and meet with the county or meet with the city and
18 see what we could do that would help the ongoing
19 operation of the district more than just putting
20 Band-Aids on it.

21 MR. BILBREY: I think that probably is
22 what we're asking along with -- you know, they are
23 distressed, but what do we need to do to get them up
24 into an ongoing operating entity, and that's part of it.
25 Where are they going to get the money, what are we going

1 to do about it, and how are we going to balance it out?

2 MS. QUESTELL: But in the meantime can
3 you-all make payroll? I mean in the next say -- if we
4 were to have a meeting in August, will you be able to
5 make payroll until then?

6 MR. MORGAN: It would be tight.
7 Depending on the income coming in. Again, the fiscal
8 year for the county and the city would start in July
9 without money coming in, and if we could survive May and
10 June with what we've got, it would get close.

11 CHAIRMAN PORTER: If you got the extra
12 40,000 out of the 14 million that we're talking about of
13 extra money, what does that do to you?

14 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, we would be able to
15 make it until August, I would think, without any
16 problem.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: But without that, you
18 would have some problem?

19 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, probably.

20 MR. SMITH: Just a question, Mr.
21 Chairman. How did we address this the first time? We
22 made some appropriation, I assume.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We did.

24 MR. SMITH: And are we talking today
25 about -- what are we talking about as the source of the

1 funding to address this issue today? Are we banking --
2 I guess -- let me ask it this way. Is that based on the
3 assumption that the appropriation for the additional
4 funding program would be included, the 40,000 to Jackson
5 County?

6 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Right.

7 MR. SMITH: Would be your amount you
8 agreed to?

9 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Looking at that plus
10 the \$125,000 equipment reimbursement sitting out there,
11 if y'all wanted to do something with that, that's what
12 they had asked for the waiver on, to be able to use that
13 to get reimbursed for their system that they put in in
14 2002.

15 And there's other options out there
16 that hadn't been talked about. At some point in time,
17 you have to look at the situation of if what we can do
18 doesn't put them in the black and take them out of
19 financial distress, then the city and county having to
20 put in more money is an option or merging with another
21 district is an option that may have to be looked at.
22 There's a lot of things that has to be done.

23 I just don't think we can do any of
24 those today, but I guess we need to get moving so that
25 over the next two or three months though that staff can

1 be working with them and trying to come up with some
2 ways that they can get back in the black and get out of
3 financial distress. It's up to y'all, whatever y'all
4 want to do.

5 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I don't
6 think in good conscience we should send these folks away
7 having a negative balance. I don't think we're doing
8 our job if we do. And it's difficult, but I'm going to
9 move that we allow them to have \$50,000 of that
10 equipment fund money for operation. And they're
11 basically being punished by having the foresight to go
12 ahead and buy equipment a few years ago ahead of our
13 arbitrary deadline.

14 And we're doing to them the same thing
15 the federal government is trying to do with us by going
16 to phase II implementation on our dime, and now the
17 federal government doesn't want to reimburse us, so I
18 move the money.

19 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We have a motion by
20 Mr. Taylor that we allow Jackson County to have \$50,000
21 of the equipment reimbursement. Is there a second?

22 MR. SMITH: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Second by Mr. Smith.
24 Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

25 (Board members respond "aye.")

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
2 sign.

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.

5 MR. BILBREY: Do we need a motion on
6 the other?

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I don't think so,
8 Charles, but it would be nice.

9 MR. BILBREY: Whatever the motion was
10 that you were going to make, I make it.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. BILBREY: To get the study started
13 and all that. And we talked about several things, and I
14 don't know what it boils down to.

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: How about we try
16 this, that staff work with Jackson County over the next
17 few months to try to rectify the financial situation
18 that they have and to look at all possible means to
19 rectify their future financial status and to bring back
20 the status report and recommendations at a future board
21 meeting to us.

22 MR. BILBREY: Sounds good.

23 MR. TAYLOR: I'll second that.

24 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion by
25 Mr. Bilbrey, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that staff work

1 with Jackson County and try to get them back on the
2 right road. Any discussion or questions? Hearing none,
3 all in favor say aye.

4 (Board members respond "aye.")

5 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
6 sign.

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.
9 Guys, will that get you --

10 MR. MORGAN: I believe it will take
11 care of it. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Y'all work with
13 staff. They will be in contact with you, and hopefully
14 we can help you move forward. Thank you.

15 The next item on the agenda is consider
16 audit findings and request by Bledsoe County ECD for an
17 extension of increase to emergency telephone charge.
18 Will Bledsoe County come forward, please?

19 MS. QUESTELL: The County Audit
20 Division of the Office of the Comptroller sent me a list
21 of audit findings, and I've invited some representatives
22 of the district to give the board a status report. In
23 particular, County Audit raised some question about the
24 district's relationship with Bledsoe County. And so the
25 County Mayor, Greg Ridley, has been kind enough to join

1 us today as well as the new chairman of the district,
2 Larry Billingsley, who is working very hard to move the
3 district forward. And also -- I'm sorry -- the district
4 director, Patricia Edmons, and we would also like some
5 information about the GIS mapping system during your
6 discussions, please.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We appreciate you-all
8 coming and being with us today, and I think y'all
9 understand some of the questions that we have already.
10 Are y'all prepared to --

11 MR. RIDLEY: Yes. If you'd like for me
12 to start with the audit, you had the audit first on the
13 questioning. The comptroller -- the County Audit when
14 they came in, we had done an interlocal agreement with
15 the emergency communications district in Bledsoe County.
16 We could not get it off the ground, couldn't get it
17 started back in '03 and '04, and we had been collecting
18 the money since '99, trying to get a building built.

19 So with the help of the county
20 commission, we were able to come up with an
21 intergovernmental agreement that allowed us to get our
22 emergency communications working. And when they came in
23 to audit, they decided that because the lease
24 agreement -- and we did this for insurance purposes --
25 said that the equipment and building would be turned

1 over to the county for maintenance and control -- that
2 has since been corrected. We have a copy, certified
3 copies from our County Court Clerk that the commission
4 has approved and the ECD board approved. This was done
5 on January 16th of this year, 2007.

6 And if I could, I would be glad for
7 you-all to -- (pause)

8 MR. BILLINGSLEY: I think there was a
9 question too about the interlocal agreement that would
10 actually give all control to the county which was never
11 intended and actually never done. The board made all
12 the decisions as far as buying equipment, contracts as
13 far as service of the equipment. Everything like that
14 was done through the board. We basically give the
15 county so much money for the operating procedures.

16 They done our paperwork for us per se,
17 our payrolls and stuff like that. The actual running of
18 the 911 center was still controlled by the board.

19 CHAIRMAN PORTER: That's been changed
20 in the interlocal agreement also, right?

21 MR. RIDLEY: We are still managing as
22 far as the payroll and paying the bills. All the money
23 that comes in to the E911 district comes to the E911
24 secretary. She is the one that holds the balance in the
25 local checking account just like the law requires. In

1 their budget, you'll see they turn over so much of that
2 money into an enterprise fund in our trustee's office to
3 allow us to pay their payroll and pay their bills is
4 what it amounts to. And also the county has put in cash
5 into the E911 fund besides that to offset their lack of
6 funds.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Lynn, on the audit
8 findings, was there other audit findings?

9 MS. QUESTELL: We were primarily
10 concerned with the finding that indicated that the board
11 had basically turned over all of its authority to the
12 county, and I've been assured that even though that
13 might have been said in the interlocal agreement, that
14 that wasn't exactly what was happening in fact.

15 MR. RIDLEY: Right. And I think you'll
16 see in this agreement it goes back, all equipment,
17 building and everything goes back to the ECD board and
18 makes the other agreement void.

19 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. Anything else
20 in audit, Lynn, that we need to have questions answered
21 on?

22 MS. REED: It appears that the new
23 agreement still has some language that would indicate
24 that the county still has full control over the E911
25 center. Do you-all feel confident that this new

1 agreement is clear? I'm looking, for example, at
2 section 2. It looks like page 96. And it's talking
3 about management and county communications and that the
4 county shall exercise exclusive authority to do all
5 things reasonable and necessary to manage
6 communications, including receiving and responding to
7 E911 calls.

8 MR. RIDLEY: That is only the
9 management. That has nothing to do with ownership, and
10 that was the problem with the audit finding was that the
11 depreciation on the equipment and the building could not
12 take place because the E911 board had to depreciate it,
13 and then it would make the county have to depreciate it
14 too. It's my understanding in the finding that the
15 management of the E911 system was compliant with the
16 law.

17 MS. REED: I guess it just -- I had
18 understood the chair to be saying that the board still
19 maintained complete control over 911, and this agreement
20 seems to be saying that the county has control over 911.
21 And so that just seems to differ.

22 MR. BILLINGSLEY: The county
23 controls -- I guess you would say our employees are
24 county employees now. They are not employees of the
25 Bledsoe ECD. That way, we were able to offer them more

1 benefits than we'd ever been able to. So putting the
2 employees and stuff like that under the county has
3 benefited the employees. And I guess the management of
4 that is turned over to the county because they do all
5 the payroll and the funding. Basically, everything is
6 brought to the board on our quarterly meetings. And any
7 expenses that we do, any equipment that's bought or
8 anything, has to be done by the board.

9 CHAIRMAN PORTER: So the board still
10 retains ownership of the 911 system and how that 911
11 system is operated. It's just that your dispatchers are
12 county employees --

13 MR. RIDLEY: We're managing the
14 employees.

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Are they under the
16 sheriff?

17 MR. RIDLEY: No, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Who is their boss?
19 You're a county employee also?

20 MR. LOWRY: Wheres does the sheriff
21 come into this?

22 MR. RIDLEY: The intergovernmental
23 agreement is between the county commission and the ECD
24 board.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You would be her

1 boss, right?

2 MR. RIDLEY: Technically, yes.

3 MR. LOWRY: Where does your NCIC
4 contract fall?

5 MS. EDMONS: It's with us.

6 MR. RIDLEY: It's with the board. No,
7 it does fall under the sheriff. I'm sorry. It does
8 fall under the sheriff.

9 MS. QUESTELL: Could you kind of just
10 explain in a little greater detail what the county is
11 paying for and what the district is paying for so that
12 we get an understanding? Does this show that the 911
13 call center is owned by the district?

14 MR. RIDLEY: Yes. As far as the
15 ownership of the building and all equipment, the
16 district has full ownership of that. The other
17 agreement said they had leased it to the county and the
18 county had full ownership. So this turned that back
19 around. The county -- two years ago in our fiscal
20 budget, we had put cash revenues into the E911 funds
21 because they didn't have enough to operate.

22 We have estimated it's about \$54,000
23 in-kind service that the county is performing for the
24 ECD board every year just by taking care of everything.
25 Their insurance is under our umbrella, so that has saved

1 a tremendous amount of money to the ECD board by being
2 able to fall under the county's umbrella.

3 MS. QUESTELL: During our technical
4 director's site visit, he noticed some problems in your
5 equipment room. Whose responsibility would it be to
6 make sure that the humidity was controlled in there?

7 MR. BILLINGSLEY: That's done by the
8 board.

9 MS. QUESTELL: Have you-all done
10 anything to rectify the dampness in that room?

11 MR. BILLINGSLEY: They did put a
12 dehumidifier in, and we're looking right now at trying
13 to find a way to -- we're at kind of a standstill,
14 trying to get this thing sealed. We're looking now at
15 maybe moving the equipment upstairs, out of that room.

16 CHAIRMAN PORTER: What about the GIS
17 mapping system? Do you have one or not?

18 MR. BILLINGSLEY: GIS mapping, we
19 actually talked with one company about doing a whole
20 turnkey system. Unfortunately, what we found out about
21 mapping, after MSAG done our mapping, it was all done
22 with AutoCAD Lite after that. So there's only one or
23 two layers of anything that's done after MSAG done it.
24 They started doing it on their own. So we have just
25 went into an agreement with Sequatchie County, Mike

1 Twitty, and he's basically went through everything that
2 we're experiencing now.

3 And they have agreed to let him come
4 and work with us. We're actually hiring him to help us
5 get our mapping up to date. We could go out and buy the
6 mapping right now, and what we put in there is not going
7 to be any good. Until we fix our map, the MSAG data,
8 our map is not going to work. It's going to be false.
9 There's going to be so many layers of stuff missing that
10 right now, we just feel like it would be a liability in
11 trying to get the mapping in until we get the mapping
12 fixed, the actual mapping part.

13 So hopefully I think Mr. Twitty -- the
14 last time we talked, we're looking at maybe six to nine
15 months at least of getting everything fixed to where it
16 might be in our mapping system, but we are diligently
17 working on it.

18 MR. LOWRY: Who is doing the addressing
19 now? Say if you built a new house, who do you come to
20 that would -- they can't get a building permit until you
21 assign an address, or how is that controlled?

22 MS. EDMONS: We don't have building
23 permits. They can't get a telephone turned on or
24 electricity until I give them an address.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: You're doing that

1 now? You assign the addresses in the county? I guess I
2 have a question about what you were saying about MSAG,
3 knowing they did several counties there at the same
4 time, and with Van Buren County being in our Homeland
5 Security region and being able to see their data when we
6 were putting together our reverse 911 system, the data
7 didn't look that bad. It actually looked pretty good.
8 And it wasn't in AutoCAD. They actually gave us the
9 shapefiles, the GIS shapefiles with their address points
10 and streets and so forth and provided it on a CD.

11 Did they not provide that same --

12 MS. EDMONS: We fired them or let them
13 go in 2004 before they went to -- we'd been doing our
14 own in AutoCAD since 2004, and there's no layers from
15 2004 to present. We haven't been able to find the CD
16 that MSAG provided with the 38 layers. We don't have
17 it.

18 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Have you contacted
19 MSAG about getting it?

20 MS. EDMONS: Mr. Twitty.

21 MR. BILLINGSLEY: Mr. Twitty has been
22 in contact with them.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Are they going to
24 provide that to you?

25 MR. TWITTY: We're negotiating the

1 protocol now for that, sir. We have the MSAG and we
2 have the DWG files, but I do not have the shapefiles as
3 of yet. But the vice president of the company and
4 myself are working out the details of that as we speak.

5 MS. QUESTELL: For the court reporter's
6 benefit, the gentleman who just spoke was Mike Twitty,
7 T-W-I-T-T-Y.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: So let me ask a
9 question of staff. I know that we have our requirement
10 that they have to have a GIS mapping system, and
11 currently they don't, and this has been going on for a
12 long time. Does the staff have a recommendation of what
13 we need to do to try to -- does the board need to take
14 any action to rectify this, or do we give them more time
15 to do it?

16 MS. QUESTELL: Well, the board's
17 requirement for all the districts to have GIS mapping
18 systems in place eventually -- it was by July of last
19 year, July 1. The consequence for not having that,
20 meeting that deadline was that the district would not
21 get the \$50,000 GIS mapping reimbursement. Well, it's
22 my understanding that Bledsoe County spent their GIS
23 mapping reimbursement on addressing, so that would not
24 be a consequence that would have any meaning to them.

25 My feeling at this point is that we

1 need to get them moving in the right direction towards
2 obtaining a compliant GIS mapping system. There's the
3 essential equipment program that would provide that to
4 you, and I think maybe it would be a good idea for the
5 board to set some kind of guidelines or deadline for
6 them to obtain this -- a proper GIS mapping system
7 that's compliant with the board's standards.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Have they spent their
9 \$150,000 equipment reimbursement?

10 MS. QUESTELL: Robert, have they?

11 MR. BARNES: 104- of it I think has
12 been spent or obligated.

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Are we reimbursing
14 them the \$10,000 GIS annual payment?

15 MS. QUESTELL: No. They don't receive
16 that. That would be improper since they don't have a
17 GIS mapping system.

18 MR. HOLLAWAY: Mr. Chairman, I just
19 want to say the original 50,000, while in fact they
20 didn't complete the project, the money spent in my
21 opinion was work and expense that was necessary to reach
22 a complete GIS system. They just didn't finish it.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Is the 104,000 -- you
24 said there was 104,000 that had been -- has it been
25 given out to them, or is it just sitting there to be

1 given out?

2 MR. BARNES: I think part of it has
3 been spent. I'm not sure all of it has been issued.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Has any of it been
5 spent on GIS mapping?

6 MR. BILLINGSLEY: That's part of the
7 money that we have set aside to work with Mr. Twitty.
8 We are under agreement to get some of this stuff done.
9 It's going to be expensive. At first, we were looking
10 at about \$40,000 for a conversion, map conversion alone,
11 and we were hoping we could cut that -- by going with
12 Mr. Twitty and stuff that we might be able to cut that
13 maybe \$10,000.

14 MS. QUESTELL: How much are you
15 thinking that the GIS mapping system -- are you planning
16 right now to purchase a GIS mapping system?

17 MR. BILLINGSLEY: Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. QUESTELL: And how much is the
19 system that you're looking at going to cost about?

20 MR. BILLINGSLEY: I do not have a price
21 on the separate system with me right now. We had looked
22 at the CAD system and also the GIS mapping together,
23 along with the \$40,000, so it's well over \$100,000.
24 Well over. And we have not dropped that down. And the
25 turnkey system that we had looked at originally was over

1 200,000. So the CAD system and the GIS mapping, along
2 with the mapping conversion, was over 100,000.

3 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Here again -- and
4 you're looking at -- you're not comparing apples to
5 apples. Here you're looking at a turnkey CAD system
6 along with mapping that, you know, you could do the
7 mapping by itself without the CAD and do that a lot
8 cheaper. I mean you understand that, right?

9 MR. BILLINGSLEY: We have since stopped
10 that, and we're breaking it down in sections now, trying
11 to complete -- like I said, we're trying to get the
12 mapping ready to go into mapping the GIS system to make
13 it right and then CAD on down the line.

14 MS. QUESTELL: Do y'all think that with
15 the amount that you have left of the \$150,000 essential
16 equipment program and the money that you've got coming
17 in that you have funds available to purchase a GIS
18 mapping system in the near future?

19 MR. BILLINGSLEY: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. QUESTELL: What kind of a deadline
21 do you think would be appropriate for purchasing a GIS
22 mapping system?

23 MR. BILLINGSLEY: To be honest, I can't
24 answer that. I mean working with Mr. Twitty is going to
25 be something new for me. And I'll just be honest. In

1 talking about the ESRI files and stuff, I'm not --
2 Mr. Twitty, you know, we talked again. Like I say, it's
3 been probably six to nine months that it took him to get
4 everything fixed on his end in Sequatchie County before
5 his mapping was ready. And by going by what he had to
6 do and what we're looking at, I'm looking at the nine
7 months, to be honest.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Nine months?

9 MR. BILLINGSLEY: Nine months.

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Let me ask staff
11 this. On that equipment reimbursement program, could we
12 put a hold on that money and make sure and require them
13 that the money they have left be spent on a GIS mapping
14 system where they can't spend it on something else or
15 not?

16 MS. QUESTELL: I don't see any reason
17 why we could not do that. I think staff would want to
18 look very carefully at how much money has been obligated
19 under that.

20 Jim, do you have any --

21 MR. BARNES: I'm not sure. I know that
22 part of the request that they have in house right now
23 has to do with GIS mapping, and it has -- I'm not sure
24 about the status of the pay.

25 MR. LOWRY: From the 911 side of it, I

1 see in here a statement where it says county shall be
2 responsible for maintaining all equipment. But where is
3 the division line between the telephone company and your
4 911 equipment? And maybe looking at the dispatch
5 equipment is a totally different issue. If you lose
6 your 911 controller tonight, who maintains that?

7 MS. EDMONS: Bite your tongue. We've
8 lost it more than once, so bite your tongue. We've lost
9 both of them more than once. We have a contract with
10 Ryan's Public Safety Solution. We have TCI phone
11 equipment, enhanced 911 equipment, and he has left TCI.
12 So he knows their equipment, and we have a 24/7 contract
13 with him and TCI. So if it went down, we would be
14 ringing his cell phone.

15 MR. LOWRY: How long? What kind of
16 time frame --

17 MS. EDMONS: He can dial in
18 immediately, and if it can't be fixed like that, he can
19 be there within two, two and a half hours.

20 MR. LOWRY: I didn't know whether --
21 usually the 911 board is responsible for that side of
22 it.

23 MS. EDMONS: They are.

24 MR. BILLINGSLEY: We were the ones that
25 did that contract.

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I guess as part of
2 our consideration today too is also the extension of the
3 increase to their landline rates also. With the
4 previous action taken by the board on rate increase
5 extensions, does that affect these today?

6 MS. QUESTELL: If the board desires for
7 that to happen. I mean as far as not having a hearing
8 on the rate extensions? Is that what you're getting at?

9 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Yeah. I'm saying do
10 we still need to go through that process as we have done
11 before?

12 MS. QUESTELL: Well, I think since this
13 is kind of an unusual case with that that it wouldn't
14 hurt to just have Robert report on what he saw and what
15 Rex saw, if the board has no objection.

16 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Let me ask this
17 first. On the audit findings, are we good on that? Is
18 everybody satisfied with what we've got on the audit
19 findings, or do we still have questions on that?

20 MS. REED: Can I just point out that it
21 seems that from what they're describing, this interlocal
22 agreement does not accurately reflect the way that
23 they're operating. So I would still have concerns about
24 that and what might come up in future audit findings.

25 MR. RIDLEY: Can I ask if you would

1 direct us in what you would like to see changed in there
2 that you see as being a problem? We're working in
3 conjunction with this board and our local ECD board, and
4 if it hadn't been for the support that this board has
5 given us over the last four years, we wouldn't be
6 operating right now.

7 Director Questell has been excellent,
8 as far as Bledsoe County goes, to help us get on the
9 right track, and that is our goal. So whatever we need
10 to do, if we could get some guidance from you, we will
11 be glad to take care of that.

12 MS. REED: I'm just looking at this
13 now, so I'm not prepared to say. But it's just in
14 general, like, for example, on the equipment
15 maintenance, you-all just described that the board has a
16 maintenance agreement with a company, but yet this
17 agreement says that the county is responsible for
18 maintenance, so that conflicts. You know, who is really
19 responsible for it because arguably it's the county and
20 not the board.

21 So it's just things of that nature.
22 And without knowing in depth exactly the way that you
23 operate, it's hard for me to comment on it. But I'll be
24 happy to talk with you about it later, if that would be
25 appropriate.

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Would the board be
2 okay with Carolyn working with them to try to give them
3 suggestions and so forth of how it can be changed and so
4 forth?

5 MS. REED: Right. And I'm not allowed
6 to give anyone legal advice except this board, but it's
7 just in terms of if we're looking at the audit findings
8 and how you-all are working to rectify that, I don't
9 want to see you get into a position where it's coming up
10 again next year.

11 MR. RIDLEY: Do you happen to have a
12 copy of those audit findings? Was there other findings
13 other than the equipment ownership and depreciation?

14 MS. QUESTELL: That was all that we
15 received from County Audit.

16 MR. RIDLEY: That was my understanding.

17 MS. REED: There was some language in
18 it that said -- let me see where it was -- that the
19 interlocal agreement appeared to transfer complete
20 control of the daily operations, employees, control of
21 the property, and ownership of the PSAP equipment to
22 Bledsoe County. So I think it was going beyond just who
23 owned the equipment, and it was talking about how the
24 operations and management was handled as well.

25 MR. RICH: Mr. Chairman -- James, are

1 we missing -- James Wood, are we missing something as
2 far as y'all's help is concerned? Is that what you're
3 trying to tell us?

4 MR. PEDERSEN: If I may, this is a
5 perfect opportunity for OIR/GIS Services potentially to
6 meet with Bledsoe ECD as well as Sequatchie.
7 Apparently, Sequatchie is playing some role in this as
8 well. We certainly in the report that we provided will
9 have some quality GIS data from Bledsoe County here at
10 the end of this year and could be a potential resource
11 to get your GIS program up and running in a very
12 cost-effective way.

13 So I'd be happy to offer up any
14 assistance that we can in support of that effort.

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: That would be great.
16 I think -- as an outsider looking in, I think you may be
17 trying to build the perfect mapping system out there
18 when you could already be providing yourself a basic
19 mapping system with the data that's free to you today
20 and have that up and working very quickly while you're
21 working on the rest of the data.

22 And maybe between James and Dennis and
23 OIR, they could really give you a lot of help on that,
24 if they would be willing to and if the board is okay
25 with that. This is kind of where we were looking at

1 going with OIR and the mapping project of them giving
2 help to the districts on this data. And I know there's
3 a lot of free data out there that could help right now
4 that would get them going.

5 MS. MASON: I think it's a big concern
6 that they've gotten the \$50,000 for the GIS and they
7 have no GIS.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I agree.

9 MR. RIDLEY: But it's my understanding
10 that it was spent toward mapping to go toward GIS
11 because we couldn't buy the GIS equipment until we got
12 the mapping. So basically we need to be depressed or
13 stressed or whatever it takes to get through this.

14 MS. MASON: The rest of us have been
15 able to do it with the 50,000.

16 MR. RIDLEY: We're in a county of
17 12,000 people that collects \$10,000 a month off of their
18 phone lines. 2500 of those are prisoners that don't use
19 telephones, so it is a tough situation. And we have got
20 employees working for low rates, long hours to make it
21 up, and I don't know where you're from, but we're not
22 the typical county. It has just been a tough situation.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I think where part of
24 it came in -- and I'm not faulting anybody, but the
25 \$50,000 went more towards addressing than it did putting

1 in a mapping system of data that was already available
2 that you didn't have to have addressing to be able to
3 have mapping data. I know a lot of that is past history
4 with some folks that may not be there now. We can't go
5 back and dig those folks up, but maybe we can get you
6 headed in the right direction.

7 MR. RIDLEY: That's what we're here
8 for.

9 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Yes.

11 MR. SMITH: I'd just like to ask
12 Mr. Billingsley -- I noticed there he referred to
13 Mr. Twitty, his good neighbor, is going to help him, I
14 see, and I note that Sequatchie County is also one of
15 the counties noted that has signed a memorandum of
16 understanding with OIR. I would be interested in
17 hearing if that's something you think you'll be
18 proceeding with since you're working with Mr. Twitty.

19 He's seen fit to do that with
20 Sequatchie County.

21 MS. EDMONS: He hasn't signed it. He
22 has not signed it.

23 MR. TWITTY: We have not signed an
24 agreement with OIR.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Can you come to the

1 microphone? We can't hear you.

2 MR. TWITTY: I have not signed an
3 agreement with OIR/GIS. At this time I'm uncomfortable
4 in doing that because there seems to be some
5 misunderstanding as far as what we're supposed to
6 provide them and what they're projecting they're going
7 to provide everybody else. And until that's clarified,
8 I have not signed it.

9 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Then I'd suggest that
10 you get with OIR and be discussing those issues so that
11 we can get you moving forward. I'm a little concerned
12 that y'all may be headed down the same road, another bad
13 road. And nothing against Mike, but if OIR is willing
14 to provide you all this information and all this data
15 for free, I can't see why anybody wouldn't be willing to
16 accept it.

17 MR. TWITTY: That seems to be where the
18 misunderstanding comes into play. From my
19 understanding, we're supposed to supply them so --

20 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Without getting into
21 a long thing, it's a joint mutual agreement that they're
22 willing to give you their data as long as you're willing
23 to share your data with them and all work together.

24 MR. TWITTY: That's agreeable. I have
25 no problem with that.

1 CHAIRMAN PORTER: How about getting
2 with Dennis and them after the meeting and see if y'all
3 can work out something especially for Bledsoe. What you
4 do at Sequatchie is up to you as long as you've got a
5 mapping system, but see if you can get with the Bledsoe
6 folks.

7 MR. TWITTY: That sounds good.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We'll see if we can
9 get you where you're headed. Okay. Audit. We're back
10 to audit. We're going to work with them to see if we
11 can get those straightened out and get the interlocal
12 agreement. Okay. GIS mapping. Do we want to set some
13 kind of deadline or put some kind of restrictions on the
14 funds that has to be, or what's the will of the board?
15 What do y'all want to do as far as the GIS mapping
16 system goes?

17 MR. BILLINGSLEY: I'd be willing to say
18 if there's a way we can get the GIS mapping up, if we
19 can do it tomorrow, we'll do it, okay? We've just
20 been -- like I said, I'm new to this. I don't
21 understand all of it. That's why we got Mr. Twitty
22 involved with us. But if there's a way that we can
23 figure out how to put it up tomorrow, we'll put it up
24 tomorrow. We're ready to go. We're trying to go.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I think OIR can help

1 you get some data and get something up real quick. I
2 don't think you're looking at months to do something.
3 Rex, you might be able to lend a helping hand.

4 MR. HOLLAWAY: Sure. Yeah. And
5 there's one other Tier I item really that probably is
6 not quite there yet, and that's the UPS. I think you're
7 probably good with the main equipment room, and I
8 understood you to say that you're going to move some
9 equipment upstairs anyway. And this may solve that
10 problem. But I'm not sure you've got one hour on your
11 work stations.

12 MS. EDMONS: It sits behind the work
13 station.

14 MR. HOLLAWAY: Okay. Just wanted to
15 clarify that.

16 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. So on the GIS
17 mapping, does the board want to take any action?

18 MR. LOWRY: Going back to staff, we can
19 see what our attorneys work out.

20 CHAIRMAN PORTER: That's on the audit
21 findings and agreements. That doesn't have anything to
22 do with them not having a GIS mapping.

23 MS. MASON: Did it have to do with us
24 holding the rest of the funding?

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Yeah, but y'all

1 haven't done anything yet. That's what I'm saying. Do
2 you want to take some action to do something?

3 MR. LOWRY: What are they asking us to
4 do?

5 CHAIRMAN PORTER: They're not asking
6 us. They're not in compliance right now with our
7 requirement to have a GIS mapping system. And does the
8 board want to take any action to try to bring them in
9 compliance?

10 MR. BILLINGSLEY: Mr. Chairman, if it
11 would be possible, if you could maybe defer this until
12 your next meeting and let us go back and attempt to -- I
13 mean we do have a lot of databases to reset. Our phone
14 system -- not only our mapping system but our phone
15 system doesn't connect properly, so we've got a lot of
16 work to do.

17 And what I would ask the board, if you
18 would let us go back and come back at the next meeting
19 and report -- give you an update as to how we've
20 progressed, instead of putting a deadline on us right
21 now, it give us a chance to go out there and see exactly
22 what we're looking at. Now that we have some more
23 information, maybe it will be helpful for us.

24 CHAIRMAN PORTER: How about this.
25 Since we've got a lot of issues sitting out there that

1 need to be worked on, would the board be willing to
2 defer the whole thing on Bledsoe until the next meeting
3 which will allow our attorney to work with them on the
4 interlocal agreement, then to working on their mapping,
5 and staff to help them on all the other issues that are
6 out there and then come back at the next board meeting
7 for the whole shebang?

8 MS. REED: One question I have though
9 is if in the meantime we get a request from them for the
10 150,000 that doesn't have to do with mapping, do you
11 want us to process that because unless you-all take
12 action now, we would be bound to go ahead and process
13 that like any other request.

14 MS. EDMONS: We've sent in everything
15 except for mapping: Generator, UPS, controller. The
16 other things would be Tier II, CAD, new furniture.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: What they're saying
18 is does the board want to put a hold on their
19 reimbursement money for anything other than GIS mapping
20 until the next meeting and we hear what's been
21 accomplished I think is what you're asking, right?

22 MS. REED: Well, I mean if they submit
23 a request for GIS mapping in the meantime, that's fine
24 too. You had indicated that you might want to limit it
25 to that, so I'm just saying if you-all don't take action

1 on it, we won't limit it.

2 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I was just concerned
3 they'd spend their money for something else and still
4 not have a GIS mapping system.

5 MR. LOWRY: Have y'all spent 40,000 for
6 the controller upgrade?

7 MS. EDMONS: Have we gotten that grant?

8 MR. LOWRY: Yes, ma'am. Have you
9 applied to the state for the 40,000 to upgrade your
10 controllers, and did that get upgraded?

11 MS. EDMONS: All that 104-, we haven't
12 spent that. I've kind of threatened them that it has to
13 be used for mapping.

14 MR. BILLINGSLEY: We do have money set
15 aside.

16 MS. EDMONS: That 104- that we got out
17 of 150-, we're sitting on that to apply towards our
18 mapping. We've not spent that money.

19 MR. LOWRY: There's a \$40,000
20 controller upgrade that's different from --

21 MS. MASON: What about the 104-?

22 CHAIRMAN PORTER: They were
23 reimbursement for their 911 system they put in.

24 MS. MASON: She says they're sitting on
25 that 104-.

1 MS. EDMONS: The 104- that's been
2 reimbursed to us from that grant money is sitting in our
3 bank account to go towards a mapping system, and then we
4 would apply for the rest of it to go towards it on
5 anything that we spent other than that.

6 CHAIRMAN PORTER: The way I understand
7 it is you paid for your 911 system to start with, then
8 you turned in for the reimbursement, then the
9 reimbursement money you got back from that is sitting in
10 the bank account.

11 MS. EDMONS: Correct.

12 MR. BILLINGSLEY: And hopefully it's
13 going to sit there.

14 MR. BILBREY: Let me ask something
15 then. Is it a fair statement to say they're not going
16 to request anything between now and the next --

17 MR. RIDLEY: Yes, sir.

18 MS. EDMONS: Unless it's for mapping.

19 MR. BILBREY: Does that answer --

20 MS. REED: Yes.

21 MR. BILBREY: Mark that down somewhere.
22 You're not going to request anything between now and --

23 MS. REED: It's on a public record.

24 CHAIRMAN PORTER: So let the record
25 show that the Bledsoe County folks have agreed that they

1 won't request any of the reimbursement of funds other
2 than for GIS mapping between now and the next board
3 meeting when we hear a report from them; is that
4 correct?

5 MR. BILLINGSLEY: That is correct.

6 MR. LOWRY: In addition, I'd like to
7 request that Rex be in the loop while trying to get the
8 mapping and the equipment up and running down there, or
9 he may already be. I don't know.

10 MR. HOLLAWAY: Yeah. The staff has
11 been pretty much in the loop for months really, working
12 directly with Patricia and Mike and others too, so we
13 were in the loop, I think. Don't you think, Lynn?

14 MS. QUESTELL: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. So then does
16 the board want to put this matter on hold until the next
17 board meeting and let staff and the Bledsoe County folks
18 come back at our next meeting and see where we're at at
19 that point and go from there? Is that what I'm hearing?

20 MR. SMITH: If you'll entertain a
21 motion, Mr. Chairman, I'll move to defer the Bledsoe
22 County item on the agenda until the next meeting.

23 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I have a motion.
24 Second?

25 MR. LOWRY: I second.

1 MR. BILBREY: And they will bring it
2 back in very clear terms as to where they are and where
3 they're going. This today was sort of, you know, not
4 real clear.

5 MS. QUESTELL: Could we clarify that
6 Bledsoe County falls under the earlier decision and that
7 its rate is automatically extended?

8 MR. TAYLOR: Why not? Do you want a
9 motion?

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Do you want to amend
11 that original motion to include that?

12 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah. I'd offer that
13 amendment.

14 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. Do I have a
15 second to the amendment?

16 MS. MASON: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We have an amendment
18 by Mr. Taylor and a second by Ms. Mason that Bledsoe
19 County fall under the earlier action taken on this board
20 where their rate increase extension is automatically
21 increased and falls under the new guidelines. Okay.
22 Any discussion on the amendment? Hear none, all in
23 favor of the amendment say aye.

24 (Board members respond "aye.")

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like

1 sign.

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carried. Now
4 we're to the amended motion. Discussion on the amended
5 motion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

6 (Board members respond "aye.")

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
8 sign.

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.
11 Okay. We'll see you probably in August, I guess would
12 probably be our next board meeting.

13 MR. RIDLEY: Thank you. Understand we
14 are trying. This has been a long, drawn-out process
15 because of the problems that we have had from the very
16 beginning, but it is coming together. So thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We understand. We
18 just want to try to help you get there.

19 MR. RIDLEY: Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN PORTER: The next item on the
21 agenda is consider request by Cannon County ECD to
22 increase the emergency telephone service charge.

23 If you would, give us your name and
24 title and what you do for the 911 district so our court
25 reporter can get that.

1 MR. NAYLOR: Okay. I'm John Naylor.
2 I'm the chairman of the 911 board.

3 MR. THOMAS: I'm Glen Thomas. I'm the
4 treasurer.

5 MR. SULLIVAN: My name is Roy Sullivan.
6 I'm the newly hired director of Cannon County ECD.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Glad to have y'all
8 with us.

9 MR. NAYLOR: We also have two
10 witnesses. One is our CPA who does our bookkeeping, Sue
11 Patrick, and also Ricky Cole. He's our Cannon County
12 EMS director.

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: And used to be the
14 mayor of Woodbury.

15 MR. NAYLOR: Right.

16 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Glad to have y'all
17 with us. We have before us today the request from
18 Cannon County for a rate increase. Rex?

19 MR. HOLLAWAY: Yeah, let me start off.
20 I'm going to be real, real brief. We visited the site
21 and met with Roy Sullivan, the new director, on March
22 22nd of this year. And I think Roy mentioned he was
23 formerly with the Cannon County Sheriff's Department, so
24 he brought a lot of experience with him to this new job.
25 The PSAP is located in the sheriff's department, and it

1 is extremely cramped, as you can see from the photos
2 there on that second page. They also act as reception
3 for the sheriff's department, so they're distracted to
4 some extent in dealing with 911 calls. They've secured
5 a building at a relatively cheap cost. It used to be an
6 AT&T -- I guess you would call it a long lines, long
7 distance relay center, a very robust building, very
8 secure.

9 And we looked at the plans, which I've
10 got a photocopy I hope you can make some sense of there.
11 They plan to occupy it around July 1st of this year.
12 They do have a GIS. They've got a TCI system, and it's
13 pretty much all -- well, they do have all the Tier I
14 equipment that's required under our standards. So with
15 that, I'll turn it over to Robert.

16 MR. MCLEOD: Okay. Looking at the
17 financial information, Cannon County currently has a
18 rate of 65 cents per residential and \$2 for basic line,
19 and they're requesting to go to maximum on both lines.
20 Looking at the historical facts here, Cannon County
21 seemed to be doing pretty good in terms of their
22 financials. Look at page 5, Table 1.

23 Nothing negative indicated there as far
24 as their books are concerned. And perhaps one of the
25 cleanest audit findings I've seen so far. Maybe just

1 one in 2005, which has been corrected. No finding in
2 2006. As far as the projections are concerned in Cannon
3 County, they do have a pretty good indication of where
4 they're going financially.

5 Historically, they have been in the
6 positive beginning or change in net assets. No negative
7 there at all. We can look at the figures as you go.
8 The interlocal agreement, trying to give a highlight or
9 summary of the interlocal agreement there, you might be
10 interested in and perhaps having questions about them, I
11 personally try to bring the high points, not all the
12 items but the line points of the interlocal agreement.

13 Notwithstanding what we have seen, the
14 staff of both Rex and I, from where we sit, really don't
15 have any -- what should I say? -- reservation in saying
16 that this request is reasonable and no information
17 indicating that this rate increase should not be
18 granted. I tried to make it as brief as possible. Any
19 questions?

20 MS. QUESTELL: I would like to make a
21 comment. I would like to commend you all. Oh, I'm
22 sorry. Excuse me.

23 (Off the record.)

24 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Okay. Questions of
25 Robert on the financial documents or Rex of the site

1 visit documents included in your packet? Okay.

2 Then next is Cannon County. Do you
3 have anything that you would like to say, any kind of
4 remarks that you-all would like to make on your rate
5 increase extension?

6 MR. NAYLOR: I think we've been frugal
7 in spending money. I think '91 is when we started
8 collecting service charges, and I guess we've stayed in
9 the black ever since. I've been on the board for two
10 years, but hiring a director, we've really come a long
11 way since February 1. And in purchasing some of the
12 equipment, we've had the opportunity to take advantage
13 of the reimbursements, buying a piece of property.

14 We're looking to move possibly by July.
15 We may do it with remodeling in addition to that
16 building, but right now we're working with an architect.
17 If the director could explain some of that, I'll give
18 the floor to him.

19 MR. SULLIVAN: I believe what we
20 decided to do is the existing building is about 1300
21 square feet, which is more than enough room to move the
22 existing dispatch and equipment. We're going to
23 concentrate on phase I, moving the equipment and
24 actually getting 911 moved over. Once that is moved
25 over and up to 100 percent compliance, at that point

1 we'll start phase II, which will consist of various
2 offices, a conference room, and such as that.

3 Right now, the only holdup in moving is
4 the engineers. That's what we're waiting on right now,
5 but we've just about got the final construction plans
6 completed. They explained to me they'd rather take the
7 extra time now to make sure everything is complete and
8 everything is on there that needs to be on there so that
9 don't, you know, kind of bite us in the hind end towards
10 the end of the project.

11 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I know Rex has
12 probably been to their old dispatch in the jail.
13 Really, really, really small. I'm amazed at how y'all
14 have been able to keep things going out of that small
15 space that you had and be able to operate over these
16 years.

17 MR. HOLLAWAY: It was interesting when
18 I arrived at the dispatch center. Immediately, they
19 told me I was going to have to wait a minute, they had a
20 holdup that just occurred. They really were very
21 professional the way they were handling this thing, so
22 it's not often you get to see things occurring as you
23 walk in. In spite of the cramped conditions, they were
24 doing a very good job.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Questions of board

1 members of Cannon County folks? Hearing none, okay.
2 Thank you. We'll go into our deliberations now on the
3 rate increase request by Cannon. I think that was go to
4 the max of residential of \$1.50 and businesses \$3.
5 What's the will of the board?

6 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
7 move to grant the rate increase request of Cannon
8 County.

9 MR. TAYLOR: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: We have a motion by
11 Mr. Smith, a second by Mr. Taylor that we grant the rate
12 increase request to Cannon County. Is there discussion?

13 MR. SMITH: I would just like to add a
14 comment.

15 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Sure.

16 MR. SMITH: As a commendation to my
17 neighbors, following this process for being proactive
18 and securing a facility, exploring all the financial
19 opportunities that were available both federally and at
20 the state level. Having known the mayor for quite some
21 time, it's obvious the interlocal agreement, no doubt
22 had his hands, his involvement in it, and I think they
23 hold up as a good example.

24 We looked at not only what Robert --
25 for an operation, small, that can still -- had only one

1 audit finding. We commend him for that. Hopefully,
2 we'll be able to continue to support them based on that
3 outstanding effort they've made.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I went to school with
5 the mayor, so maybe we need to get together afterwards
6 and talk about the stories.

7 Any other questions or discussion?
8 Hearing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.

9 (Board members respond "aye.")

10 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
11 sign.

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carries.
14 Gentlemen, and I want to say too from Cannon County
15 being in our Homeland Security district, I've had a
16 chance to work with Roy and talked to him on the phone
17 several times. I think you've got a real jewel there
18 that will help take y'all into the future with what
19 you're doing. I commend him with what he's done so far.

20 MR. SULLIVAN: I appreciate that.

21 CHAIRMAN PORTER: I hope you can keep
22 them straight down there in Cannon County.

23 The next item on the agenda is to
24 consider a request by Blount County ECD for an extension
25 of increase on their telephone charge, and I was

1 wondering if the board would want to look at doing the
2 same thing for Blount that we did for the other counties
3 with the information and action that the board took
4 earlier on extending the rate increases.

5 MR. TAYLOR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

6 MR. LOWRY: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion by Mr. Taylor
8 and a second by Mr. Lowry that we extend Blount County's
9 rate increase extension under the new policies and
10 guidelines that have been set forth by the board earlier
11 in this meeting. Any discussion?

12 MS. QUESTELL: I would just like to
13 commend Blount County for not having any findings for
14 the past three years. That is quite an accomplishment,
15 and we really appreciate your good work.

16 MR. CAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, if I could
17 just address the board, I don't get a chance to come
18 down here and talk to you folks at every meeting, but
19 I'd like to commend the staff for the help that they
20 give me, they probably think sometimes on a daily basis,
21 but Mr. Hollaway, Mr. McLeod -- I've gotten to know him,
22 and I sent Mr. Barnes an e-mail yesterday, and he
23 immediately answered me back. I always get contacted
24 back very quickly, and that's a tremendous asset.

25 And here in front of the board, I'd

1 just like to thank them and commend them on behalf of
2 our district. They're a lot of help to us. That's a
3 great resource.

4 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Let the record show
5 that was Mr. Jeff Caylor, the director of Blount County.
6 Jeff, you do a good job, and we appreciate that.

7 MR. CAYLOR: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Any other discussion?
9 All in favor say aye.

10 (Board members respond "aye.")

11 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like
12 sign.

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Motion carried.

15 We need to look at future board
16 meetings. We had originally had one scheduled for May
17 24th, which I think staff is recommending that we cancel
18 that meeting. Is there any objection, board members,
19 that we cancel the May 24th meeting? We originally had
20 a board meeting scheduled or room saved for June 21st.
21 Staff is recommending that we also cancel that.

22 Is there any objection? And that we
23 look at setting our next board meeting for August 30,
24 2007. Is there an objection to our next board meeting
25 being August 30th? Then we'll set our next board

1 meeting August 30th at 9:30 a.m.

2 Is everybody okay with the 9:30? Is
3 that working out? Okay. We'll go for August 30th. Do
4 we want to look out into October, November, December for
5 another board meeting? We originally had one set for --
6 we had saved September 27th, but I think with us having
7 one at the end of August, we won't need that meeting, so
8 is there any objection to us canceling the September
9 27th holding and look out into possibly maybe October,
10 November, for a future board meeting?

11 Let me give you some open dates.

12 MS. QUESTELL: We need a fourth quarter
13 meeting.

14 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Thursday, October
15 25th, is open. The board room is open. All of the
16 other Thursdays are taken until November 29th. And, of
17 course, we start getting into December, and I don't
18 think any of us want to have a board meeting in
19 December.

20 What about October 25th or November
21 29th, either one of those two dates? Would y'all want
22 to go ahead and hold both of those two dates, and then
23 once we get to August, at our August board meeting, we
24 can decide, depending on how much business we've got,
25 what we want to do with that fourth quarter? Okay. So

1 if you can hold both of those for us and go ahead and
2 schedule us then for August 30th for our next board
3 meeting. Is there any other items that needs to come
4 before the ECD today?

5 MR. SMITH: I just want to make one
6 closing comment, Mr. Chairman, and I know I've been
7 long-winded today, but in light of all the attention
8 we've all received from every district regarding the
9 funding, I'd just like to thank Commissioner Newman for
10 taking the time out to come to the TENA meeting and
11 address the 911 districts there, and I appreciate her
12 active involvement in this issue.

13 CHAIRMAN PORTER: That was probably a
14 first, I guess, having a commissioner come and address
15 TENA. That was great. I also want to commend TENA for
16 what they did up on the Hill with the legislation and
17 all the stuff that's been going on and running and
18 taking that ball and running with it. Y'all have done a
19 great job, and I commend the TENA board and the TENA
20 members for the job that y'all have done. That's great.

21 Anything else. If not, let the record
22 show that our board meeting is ending at 12:27 p.m.
23 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

24 MR. SMITH: So moved.

25 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Do I have a second?

1 MS. MASON: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Second by Ms. Mason.

3 All in favor say aye.

4 (Board members respond "aye.")

5 CHAIRMAN PORTER: All opposed, like

6 sign.

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN PORTER: Have a safe trip

9 home.

10 (Proceedings concluded at

11 12:27 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE)

COUNTY OF DAVIDSON)

I, Carol A. Nichols, Registered
Diplomate Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and
Certified Court Reporter, with offices in Nashville,
Tennessee, hereby certify that I reported the foregoing
proceedings at the time and place set forth in the
caption thereof; that the proceedings were
stenographically reported by me in shorthand; and that
the foregoing proceedings constitute a true and correct
transcript of said proceedings to the best of my
ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not related
to any of the parties named herein, nor their
counsel, and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in
the outcome or events of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
affixed my official signature and seal of office, this
14th day of May, 2007.

CAROL A. NICHOLS, REGISTERED
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My Commission Expires:
February 5, 2008